FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-88-017
Wednesday
27 January 1988

Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-88-017 *27 January 1988*

CONTENTS

ALBANIA

French Parliamentarians Received By Alia 1
France's Bariani To Visit Albania *[Belgrade BORBA 25 Jan]* 1
Carcani Receives FRG Ambassador Kroneck 1
Foreign Minister Greets PRK Counterpart *[Phnom Penh]* 1
Comparison of Alia Speech to People's Council 1

BULGARIA

Colombian Foreign Minister Continues Visit 3
Meets With Mladenov 3
Received by Zhivkov 3
Honored at Luncheon 3
Data Cited on Restructuring of Trade Unions 3

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Further Reportage on Chancellor Kohl's Visit 4
Addresses Dinner *[Hamburg DPA]* 4
Talks Between Delegations Begin 4
Kohl Visit 'Desirable Start' *[Hamburg DPA]* 4
Further on Talks *[Hamburg DPA]* 4
Press Conference Held 5
Tours Prague Sights 5
Discusses Cooperation 6
Strougal, Kohl Speak at Dinner 6
More on Talks *[Hamburg DPA]* 7
Chnoupek Receives GDR's Florin For Talks *[RUDE PRAVO 22 Jan]* 8
Bilak Receives GDR's Sieber For Talks *[RUDE PRAVO 22 Jan]* 8
Reagan State of the Union Address Viewed 8
Daily on 43d CEMA Session in Moscow *[Bratislava PRAVDA 22 Jan]* 8
French TU Delegations Visits, Holds Talks *[PRACE 23 Jan]* 9
CSSR, PRC Sign Sports Contacts Protocol 9
Bilak Meets With Syria's President Al-Asad 9
PDRY TU Visits; Aid To Continue *[PRACE 22 Jan]* 10
Church-State Talks 'Frosty;' Arrests Reported *[Vienna]* 10
Stefanak on Restructuring, 'Prague Spring' *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 26 Jan]* 10
Pitra on Restructuring in Agriculture *[ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY 20 Jan]* 11
Government Meets, Views Youth, Programs *[RUDE PRAVO 22 Jan]* 15

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Shots Fired as Two East Germans Scale Wall *[AFP]* 17
Potsdam Signs Town-Twinning Accord With Bonn 17
Leuschner Comments on Disarmament Trends 17
Honecker Greets Shevardnadze on Birthday *[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 25 Jan]* 18
Zion Church Trial Begins 26 Jan 18
Kessler Addresses FDJ Delegates *[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 25 Jan]* 18
Leaders Public Appearances 15-21 January *[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 15-21 Jan]* 18

HUNGARY

Szuros On Disarmament, Foreign Policy 20
MSZMP Official Returns from PSOE Congress 29
Lukacs Meets With Visiting SFRY Delegation 30
Deputy Foreign Minister Horn Visits Iran *[cross-reference]* 30
USSR Komsomol Delegation Arrives in Budapest 30
Industry Minister Outlines Economic Problems 30
Csehak Outlines New Ministry's Tasks *[MAGYAR HIRLAP 22 Jan]* 31
Youth Parliament Sports Commission Session Held *[NEPSZABADSAG 22 Jan]* 32
Released Convicts Face Employment Difficulties *[MAGYAR HIRLAP 25 Jan]* 33

POLAND

Iranian Foreign Minister Visits, Holds Talks 34
Meets With Orzechowski 34
Meets With Malinowski 34
Continues Talks With Officials 34
PAP Reports on Urban Press Conference 35
Agreement Signed With Society, USSR Troops 37
CSCE Delegate Proposes Work 'Contacts' 38
Malinowski Meets Turkish Newspaper Reporter 38
PZPR Central Committee Politburo Meets 38
December Implementation of Economic Reform *[TRYBUNA LUDU 21 Jan]* 38
Glowczyk Chairs Meeting on Mass Media 39
New Defense League Chairman Named 39

ROMANIA

PEC, State Council Approves Amnesty 40
Decree Published 40
Allegations of Church Demolition Refuted 40
Further Reportage on Ceausescu's Birthday 40
Address on 70th Birthday 40
Ceausescu Attends Exhibition 45
Ceausescu Attends Reception 46
Ceausescu Speech at Reception 47
Prosecutor's Office Message *[SCINTEIA 21 Jan]* 47
RCP Auditing Commission Message *[SCINTEIA 24 Jan]* 48
Hungarian Embassy Party on Treaty Anniversary 48
'Arafat Thanks Ceausescu for Message *[SCINTEIA 22 Jan]* 49
Dascalescu Message to PRC Premier on Accident *[SCINTEIA 23 Jan]* 49

YUGOSLAVIA

Youth Organization Votes Against Relay Race 50
Lolic on Youth Relay Race *[BORBA 22 Jan]* 50
Finance Minister Views Economic Changes 50
Man on Trial in Zagreb on Terrorist Charges 51
Slovene SAWP Conditionally Accepts Resolution 51
New President of Bosnian SAWP Elected 51
CEMA's 'Harmless, Innocent' Projects Assessed *[Gorsek in BORBA 14 Jan]* 51
Rural Serbs, Montenegrins Continue Emigration 52
Zagreb Construction Workers End Strike 53
Issues on Mikulic Visit to Italy Reviewed 53
Mamula Departs for Visit to Ethiopia 54
Orlandic Receives Hungarian Envoy 54

French Parliamentarians Received By Alia

AU262002 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Comrade Ramiz Alia, AWP Central Committee first secretary and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, received the group of deputies of the French National Assembly, led by Deputy Michel Berson, at the Palace of Brigades this afternoon. The reception was attended by Ylli Popa, chairman of the Permanent Commission for Health and Communal Services of the People's Assembly; Rolanda Dhimitri, deputy chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Commission; Llazar Koka, chairman of the Industry Commission; and Jorgo Melica, chairman of the Albanian Committee For Cultural and Friendly Relations With Foreign Countries. Philippe Legrain, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, was also present.

Comrade Ramiz Alia had a warm talk with the French deputies. He pointed out the traditional friendly relations between France and Albania, as well as the sentiments of friendship and respect that the Albanian people hold for the French people. France, Comrade Ramiz Alia stated, is well-known in Albania for its rich traditions and history. He expressed the belief that all possibilities exist to further develop the relations between Albania and France in various fields of mutual interest. In this framework, the visit of the deputies of the French National Assembly serves this purpose. Comrade Ramiz Alia went on to acquaint the French guests with the achievements of our people in various fields of life, with their efforts to progress, relying on their own forces, on the road of socialism, on the road delineated by the party and Comrade Enver Hoxha. He also spoke to the French deputies about Albania's foreign policy, which serves to preserve and consolidate the country's freedom and independence, as well as peace and security in the Balkans and beyond.

In the name of the group of deputies of the French National Assembly, Deputy Michel Berson thanked Comrade Ramiz Alia for the warm welcome extended to the group in our country and spoke about the sentiments of friendship between the two peoples and about the good relations between the two countries. During the meetings and talks that we had in Albania with deputies of the People's Assembly and various other people, he said, and during our visits to various places, we were informed about life in and the progress made in your country, as well as about the determination of the Albanians to defend their freedom and national independence. He expressed best wishes for the happiness of the Albanian people, as well as the desire for the further strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries.

France's Bariani To Visit Albania

AU261448 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 25 Jan 88 p 6

[TANJUG report: "Extending Cooperation"]

[Text] Paris 24 Jan (TANJUG)—Didier Bariani, state secretary to the French minister for foreign affairs, will pay an official visit to Albania on 16 and 17 February.

This will be the second visit of a member of the French Government to Tirana, after the visit of the then secretary for foreign affairs Jean-Michel Bejmet [spelling as received] in September 1985.

In the meantime, as is known, Sokrat Plaka, Albanian deputy minister of foreign affairs, visited Paris in December 1986. On this occasion Plaka handed over a personal message for President Mitterrand from the Albanian leader Ramiz Alia, and a memorandum concerning Albanian proposals for the progress and development of political and commercial relations between Albania and France.

Carcani Receives FRG Ambassador Kroneck

AU271521 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1430 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Comrade Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, today received Friedrich Kroneck, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the FRG to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. The reception, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, was also attended by Muhamet Kapllani, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Foreign Minister Greets PRK Counterpart

BK270657 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] On the ninth anniversary of the 7 January national day, Comrade Hun Sen, PRK foreign minister, received a congratulatory message from Comrade Reis Malile, foreign minister of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. The message says:

I would like to send you sincere congratulations and best wishes of prosperity and progress to the Cambodian people.

Comparison of Alia Speech to People's Council

Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian on 24 January carries on pages 1-2 a 2,400-word unattributed report entitled "From The Speech Of Comrade Ramiz Alia," covering a speech made by Ramiz Alia, AWP central committee first secretary, at a meeting of the Tirana District People's Council on 23 January. Comparison

with the Tirana Domestic Albanian version published in the 25 January, East Europe DAILY REPORT, page 3, allows for the following indistinct words to be supplied:

Page three, right column, paragraph one, sentence five, reads in ZERI I POPULLIT: manpower and resources, technological progress, the (supplying indistinct words)

Page four, middle of left column, penultimate sentence in continued paragraph reads from: 1.5 times higher.

Production figures for animal livestock products in Tirana district, reckoned in milk form and calculated per capita, are 232 kilograms, while in Lushnje they amount to 543 kilograms, in Fier 329 kilograms, in Korce 345 kilograms, and in Kruje 347 kilograms. Tirana must effect [supplying additional material]

Page four, middle of right column, following continued paragraph, reads from: its agricultural enterprises. [new paragraph]

The development of agriculture in Tirana, Comrade Ramiz pointed out, must strongly rely on human labor. At present the area worked per worker in the cooperatives is 0.9 hectares, and 1 hectare in the agricultural enterprises. This fact, as well as the fact that agricultural production in Tirana is dominated by crops and livestock demanding intensive attention, shows the great capacity of this sector to absorb more labor. Boosting vigorous labor, alongside an advanced standard of mechanization, will encourage agricultural development, just as increasing production and efficiency in this sector will improve stability and positive demographic trends in the countryside.

In his speech [supplying additional material]

Page five, left column, following continued paragraph, reads from: more material goods. [new paragraph]

The national cultural institutions working in Tirana have their different branches, and are not directly tied to the district state organs. But it would not be right for party and state organs merely to wait and see what these institutions produce. They can and must support, encourage, and coordinate their activities.

Concluding, Comrade Ramiz [supplying additional material].

Page five, left column, first full paragraph, following third sentence reads from: that it directs. It is not easy to manage in Tirana. The danger exists under such circumstances of becoming preoccupied with trivia, of falling into routine work, or dissipating energies among too many spheres. In Tirana, more than anywhere else, there is a temptation to refer matters to the central administration.

It is important, despite the many organizational divisions, to enforce a single policy in Tirana, whether for industry, agriculture, construction, the retail or service sectors, education, culture, or science. This demands increased supervision on the part of the district state organs. While it is [supplying additional material].

Colombian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets With Mladenov

AU261243 Sofia BTA in English 1200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Sofia, January 26 (BTA)—The talks between Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, and Mr Julio Londono Paredes, minister of foreign affairs of Colombia, continued today. [passage omitted]

The Bulgarian foreign minister and his Colombian counterpart emphasized the need for joint efforts to eliminate underdevelopment and to establish a new economic order. [passage omitted]

The guest spoke of the situation in Colombia and his country's struggle against drug trafficking. He assessed highly Bulgaria's achievements in all fields of life and emphasized Colombia's interest in them.

Mr Petur Mladenov explained the main principles of the new political thinking and of the socialist countries' position in the field of disarmament. He spoke for the continuation of the European detente process and emphasized Bulgaria's interest in the strengthening of the good-neighborly cooperation and security in the Balkans, in Europe and world-wide. He noted the role of the forthcoming meeting in Belgrade of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers on cooperation in this part of the world.

The Bulgarian foreign minister spoke of the need to resolve the conflict in the Middle East through an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned and for the putting of an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war, as envisaged in the respective UN resolution. [passage omitted]

Received by Zhivkov

AU261407 Sofia BTA in English 1342 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Sofia, January 26 (BTA)—Today Mr Todor Zhivkov, president of the State Council, received Mr Julio Londono Paredes, Colombia's minister of foreign affairs, who is paying an official visit of friendship here.

They considered a wide range of questions concerning international relations and East-West contacts. The sides commended highly the Soviet-American intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty and expressed the conviction that the countries will proceed along the road of a peaceful settlement of disputes.

The need was stressed for a restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. It was indicated that countries large and small alike should contribute to this effect.

The agenda included the situation in Latin and Central America, in the Middle East and southwest Asia. The situation in the Balkans was also among the matters considered.

The sides expressed a shared desire for a further promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations in various branches on the basis of mutual benefit.

The session of talks was attended by Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs.

The chief Colombian diplomat also conferred with Mr Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers. They stressed the need for intensified economic, scientific and technological ties and for a promotion of political contacts.

Honored at Luncheon

AU261856 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] On 26 January Comrade Todor Zhivkov gave a luncheon in honor of Julio Londono Paredes, Colombian foreign minister. The luncheon was attended by Comrades Milko Balev, Petur Mladenov, Petur Tanchev, Andrey Lukanov, and other officials.

Data Cited on Restructuring of Trade Unions

AU261727 Sofia BTA in English 1636 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Trade Unions and Restructuring"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 26 (BTA)—The transfer of socialist property to the work forces for management and administration will lead to a tangible change in economic relations between enterprises and the state. Most members of the Bulgarian Trade Unions believe that the reform will lead to an encouragement of the profit motive, to a heightened sense of responsibility in work and to better economic performance. This is evidenced by the results of a sociological poll conducted here which covered 1,180 workers, 75 business executives and 162 chairmen of primary and company-level trade union organizations.

On a countrywide scale, the trade union organizations have shed 42 per cent of their administrative staff. The principle of self-financing and self-management has taken hold in the practice of trade union work. The trade union houses of culture are switching over to self-support, too. The state will only subsidize the local labor safety and social security inspectorates.

Last year the trade unions were reorganized on a federative principle. Ten trade union federations have been established so far. Trade, services and tourism employees are soon expected to set up an eleventh federation. The federations' governing bodies will be constituted by workers' delegates.

Communal trade union councils have been established as new structural subdivisions in the communities (the new territorial units).

Further Reportage on Chancellor Kohl's Visit

Addresses Dinner

LD261207 Hamburg DPA in German
0906 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Prague, (DPA)—The frontiers should be made more permeable and meetings at the highest level more regular, Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl demanded in Prague on Tuesday. During a dinner given by Czechoslovak Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal on the 1st day of his official visit to the CSSR, Kohl promised an intensification of relations. In this connection, he mentioned, above all, youth exchanges, cultural exchange, commercial joint ventures, environmental protection, and scientific-technological cooperation.

In his speech the federal chancellor emphatically supported the disarmament negotiations, between the superpowers. He appealed to the Soviet Union to reduce its "massive superiority" in short-range missiles and to admit that the Europeans have "the right to equal security." Three weeks before his Washington consultations with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Kohl questioned once again the U.S. positions regarding chemical weapons. He is firmly convinced that with a worldwide ban the issue of supervision can be solved, Kohl emphasized in Prague.

The federal chancellor expressed the wish for goodneighborliness, having earlier recalled both the national-socialist crimes in Czechoslvoakia and the cruelties in expelling the Germans. "We do not wish to suppress the bitter experiences of history," the chancellor emphasized. He welcomed the willingness of the CSSR Government to solve humanitarian questions and to consider exit visa applications from ethnic-German citizens.

Talks Between Delegations Begin

LD261544 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1500 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Talks opened in the Hrzansky Palace in Prague this afternoon between Federal Premier Lubomir Strougal and FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is in Czechoslovakia on an official visit. Both statesmen first had a discussion with only their interpreters present.

Talks between the two countries' delegations then began. They focused on deepening bilateral cooperation and on an exchange of views on current international problems.

Taking part in the talks on the Czechoslovak side were: Federal Premier Lubomir Strougal, Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba, Transport Minister Vladimir Blazek, Deputy Minister Evzen Vacek, Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Jiri Nemec, and Dusan Spacil, CSSR ambassador to the FRG.

On the FRG side, Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Transport Minister Juergen Warnke, State Secretary Friedhelm Ost who is head of the federal government press and information office; Dieter von Wuerzen, state secretary in the Foreign Trade Ministry; Horst Teltschick, ministerial director in the Federal Chancellor's Office; and Werner Schattman, FRG Ambassador to the CSSR, were present.

Kohl Visit 'Desirable Start'

LD261731 Hamburg DPA in German
1616 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Prague (DPA)—Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been received with great attention in Prague today, on his first official visit to the CSSR. The chancellor's visit was welcomed in press commentaries and by Kohl's hosts as a desirable start to better relations. Today in Prague, Federal Transport Minister Juergen Warnke signed the long-awaited agreement on inland shipping. Kohl, who took a walk through the Old Town of Prague shortly after his arrival and who learned about Prague ham at a butcher shop, thanked Premier Lubomir Strougal for the "extremely friendly" reception and invited him to Bonn.

Government spokesman Friedhelm Ost described Kohl's first political talks as "very constructive and cooperative." In a speech at a dinner for the chancellor, Strougal expressed pleasure that "the world around us is starting to orient itself on the principles of common sense." He announced "dynamic relations" with Bonn. [passage omitted]

Further on Talks

LD261751 Hamburg DPA in German
1641 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Prague (DPA/VWD)—Possible cooperation between the Volkswagen AG, Wolfsburg, and the Skoda works in the CSSR was one of the topics at the friendly talks between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal today. Government Spokesman Friedhelm Ost said at a press conference in Prague this evening that the matter involved an offer from VW to build motors at Jung-Bunzlau for Skoda cars. It is reported that VW Polo engines are under discussion. Ost could not confirm that the total sum involved would amount to over DM1 billion.

It is reported, however, that Opel, Renault, and Porsche are competing for the deal. The decision is to be made in April. Strougal suggested forming a FRG-CSSR commission of experts to work out joint projects and set up a list of priorities. The joint construction of a Prague-Nuremburg autobahn, an energy link, and the joint control and application of safety precautions at nuclear power stations may be considered.

Press Conference Held

LD262116 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Jiri Halousek reports from a press conference about the talks between Strougal and Kohl:

[Halousek] The journalists present were briefed on the current progress of the visit of Helmut Kohl to Czechoslovakia by the head of the Press Department of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ivan Kulhanek, and Friedhelm Ost, spokesman of the FRG Government. The talks opened at 1300. Lubomir Strougal and Helmut Kohl designated them after 90 minutes as very cordial and frank. As they stressed jointly, they were conducted in an atmosphere of mutual trust. After that, the delegations of Czechoslovakia and FRG met for talks, chaired by the two premiers.

Lubomir Strougal expressed in the introduction the wish that the visit of Chancellor Kohl might become the beginning of a dynamic development of relations between Czechoslovakia and FRG. This is aided also by the current international situation.

Helmut Kohl expressed thanks for the friendly reception and stressed that the peoples of the two countries have a long joint history with many a dark chapter. It is for this reason, he went on to say, he would like to visit the memorial in Lidice tomorrow. We should draw a joint lesson from this history and strive on this basis for a better joint future, Helmut Kohl said. He also stressed the great significance of disarmament and further deepening mutual trust in respecting the differences of social systems. Helmut Kohl went on to say that during the coming visit in Washington in the middle of February, he will speak to the U.S. ally about the vital interests of the citizens of FRG in further disarmament steps, above all, as far as a 50 percent reduction of strategic weapons is concerned and as far as a worldwide ban on chemical weapons is concerned.

Lubomir Strougal praised the attitude of the FRG Government on the question of Pershing 1-A missiles and expressed the readiness of the Czechoslovak side to talk about all further questions, above all, about disarmament in the sphere of missiles with a range of up to 500 km, which concerns the immediate security of the two countries. The delegations of the two countries then went on to talk about the broad range of bilateral questions which concern mutual relations in economy, protection of the living enviroment, culture, tourism and other spheres.

Concluding the talks, the ministers of transport of the two countries, Vladimir Blazek and Juergen Warnke, signed an agreement on internal shipping transport. After that, Chancellor Helmut Kohl viewed the Old Town Hall and the Prague Carolinum. At 2000 Lubomir Strougal will give a festive dinner in honor of the West German guest.

Tours Prague Sights

LD262059 Prague Television Service in Czech 1830 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Helmut Kohl, federal chancellor of the FRG, arrived today for a 2-day official visit to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Federal Government. [passage omitted]

This afternoon, Helmut Kohl went sight-seeing in Prague accompanied by Bohuslav Chnoupek, minister of foreign affairs. First he visited Prague Castle where he was informed about the history of this exceptional historic building: he heard information about the history of this exceptional historic building; he heard informtion about the Spanish Hall and other reception rooms of Prague Castle with interest. The next stop was Charles Bridge. City Architect Blahomir Borovicka informed the Federal chancellor about the reconstruction of the historic center of the city and about how Prague is solving questions of improving the environment.

At about 1800 Helmut Kohl and his entourage visited the Old Town Square. Here, in front of the Old Town Hall, he greeted citizens of our capital city. This was an opportunity for us to ask the FRG federal chancellor for a short interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter in German with superimposed Czech translation] Mr Federal Chancellor, our viewers would like to know how you like Prague. You have already visited some of the sights, so could you give us a few words.

[Kohl in German with superimposed Czech translation] I have just been saying that perhaps it is almost barbaric to give only an hour to see one of the most beautiful cities of the world. Prague has a great history and traditions which are unique. To acquaint myself with Prague I would need at last a whole day, and naturally without (?the television), but even so it is a fantastic experience. And so I hope that soon I will come again privately and become more familiar with Prague.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

[Announcer] Helmut Kohl was welcomed at Prague Town Hall by Mayor Frantisek Stafa. He informed Kohl about the history of our capital and that of Prague Town Hall. The FRG federal chancellor signed the visitor's book and received a symbolic key to the city of Prague.

The next stop was Charles University. Here Helmut Kohl was informed by Rector Zdenek Ceska about the history of the university and about its present importance for the education of experts.

Discusses Cooperation

LD262139 Prague CTK in English
2055 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Prague Jan 26 (CTK)—Czechoslovak-West German relations and possibilities of expanding contacts in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and other spheres were on the agenda of the talks between Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl here today.

The two statesmen said that with full respect for the differences in the social systems of the two countries, the philosophy of a common European home and good neighbourhood can be pursued and the barrier of mistrust can be overcome with the use of the positive experiences from the past.

At the talks between the government delegations of the two countries, the sides emphasized the special importance of Chancellor Kohl's visit to Czechoslovakia - the first after fifteen years - by which the political contacts of the two countries were raised to an adequate level and a favourable climate was created for their expansion.

Special attention was paid to the level and extent of economic relations, forming a substantial part of bilateral cooperation (the FRG is Czechoslovakia's major western trade partner. The two countries, however, have far from used to the full extent the possibilities of their economies, especially as regards modern forms of cooperation. The two sides set a wide range of issues of common interest in industrial cooperation, cooperation on third markets, joint ventures, transport, power industry and environmental protection. It is in this last sphere that a number of suggestions have been made, which are to help Czechoslovakia achieve its aim in limiting emissions and in the protection of waters.

The discussion focused also on people-to-people contacts which the West German chancellor several times described as a prerequisite for a better future of the good-neighbour relations and a possibility to set an example in East-West relations.

Lubomir Strougal informed Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Czechoslovakia's plans to improve the border regimen, visa policy and work with journalists, and to put forward a number of suggestions concerning culture, science and education. He also stressed the Czechsolovak Government's good will to settle within a short time some problems with the Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia.

The course of the talks confirmed the interest of the two delegations to open a new chapter in Czechoslovak-West German relations, to use the positive experience, mainly in economic cooperation, for the well-being of the nations of the two countries in the interest of the whole of Europe.

While discussing international issues, Lubomir Strougal and Helmut Kohl stressed the importance of the Soviet-American intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty and called for the continuation and expansion of the disarmament process also in the field of strategic, chemical and conventional weapons.

Later in the day, Czechoslovak Minister of Transport Vladimir Blazek and West German Transport Minister Juergen Warnke signed a Czechoslovak-West German government agreement on inland water transport.

Strougal, Kohl Speak at Dinner

LD262220 Prague CTK in English
2130 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Prague Jan 26 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal said here today that the political and military realities conforming to the social systems of the divided world do not hinder mutually advantageous cooperation, good-neighbour relations and the establishment of a different political practice.

Speaking at a dinner to honour West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who arrived earlier in the day, Lubomir Strougal said "we know well what divides us, what are the political and military realities so far conforming to the social systems of the divided world. However, these realities are no hindrance to mutually beneficial cooperation, good-neighbour relations and the establishment of a different political practice including a border regimen in the widest sense of the term".

"There is no issue which we would hesitate to raise at present. We talk openly and to the point, realistically, without hasty promises because we are troubled by problems which we will not get rid of for many years to come", Lubomir Strougal said. In this context he pointed out the question of environmental protection, and recalled an agreement on cooperation in this sphere between the two countries, signed last year. "However, the main thing in the protection of the common skies of our European home is still ahead of us", he said, adding that preserving nature is also for Czechoslovakia a state task of utmost priority.

The premier said that time requires new concepts and mainly practice in economic cooperation. Much is spoken of new forms of cooperation, joint ventures, licences but less is done to carry them out, to the detriment of mutually beneficial neighbourhood.

Lubomir Strougal further said that Czechoslovakia is doing its utmost towards reaching the goal of ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction. It will therefore do all it is required by the treaty on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles between the USSR and the USA, "and we shall warmly welcome the day when no missiles with nuclear warheads are left on our territory".

The Czechoslovak premier said that much has yet to be done to increase mutual confidence and eliminate incorrect ideas about the way of life and plans in mutual relations, to push through the principles of reasonable sufficiency of the armed forces on the lowest possible level, in nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons.

The questions of war and peace, disarmament, arms control and elimination of the threat of force are not an exclusive affair of the strong and the strongest, they are a deep desire, a question of existence, a chance for the survival of all states and nations and thus also Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany, Strougal said and recalled in this connection letters addressed to Helmut Kohl proposing the establishment of a chemical weapons-free zone and a nuclear-free corridor in Central Europe. "We believe that it is our duty to participate in worldwide efforts at banning and liquidating weapons of mass destruction. The realization of similar projects can moreover make our border regions safe and stable irrespective of the fact that our European home has two entrances".

"Economic relations are the corner-stone of our cooperation. The industrial tradition of our countries formed for centuries and long-established close links between our firms create good conditions for further progress", West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in an address delivered at today's dinner given in his honour.

"We are ready to cooperate in the application of new forms, ranging from cooperation between enterprises to joint ventures", the chancellor added.

He appreciated the Czechoslovak-West German agreement on environmental protection signed last year. He also spoke of an agreement on inland water transport signed today and said that today's talks have brought also agreement on an early conclusion of a treaty involving cooperation in science and technology, exchange of information on nuclear installations and road transport. Helmut Kohl further recalled the development of cultural exchange between Czechoslovakia and the FRG. "We were pleased by the great interest your citizens showed in the week of West German culture held for the second time in four towns of your country last October. On that occasion we could present only a fragment of our contemporary cultural life. Our citizens now await a step which would correspond to the contribution of our nations to European culture: The exchange between cultural institutions", he added.

"We welcome the fact that the Czechoslovak Government confirmed today that, in harmony with the exchange of letters on humanitarian issues, it will continue to meet the demands of persons of German nationality for emigration.... A pragmatic solution of humanitarian questions is the corner-stone of good neighbourly relations", Helmut Kohl went on to say.

The determination to make this year a marked step forward in mutual relations between Czechoslovakia and the FRG has been in general positively influenced by the dynamic development in East-West relations. In no period of the post-war history had the USA and the Soviet Union led such an intensive top level dialogue and their readiness to solve questions of security in the spirit of cooperation has never been so overtly proclaimed as today, the chancellor said.

"We agree", he further said, "that the main task in the coming period is to have the present favourable tendencies firmly rooted in East-West relations. This requires two things: Responsibility for the overall international atmosphere should not lie only on the shoulders of the super-powers—this is rather an appeal to all Europeans to make their contribution, a dialogue between the West and East must not be limited only to disarmament and arms control—we must make a much greater use of the achieved progress as a stimulus for extensive cooperation in all spheres".

More on Talks

LD271354 Hamburg DPA in German 1158 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Prague, (DPA)—Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl started the 2d and final day of his visit to the CSSR on Wednesday with a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial in Lidice near Prague, which the SS razed to the ground in 1942. Just as the chancellor started a television interview with the words "at this place of horror...", he was interrupted by shouting from two young GDR citizens who wanted to speak with the chancellor. CSSR security men tried to push them away. However Kohl said he was willing to talk to them.

Kohl continued his political talks this morning at Prague Castle, where he met President Gustav Husak. Husak recalled his visit to the Federal Republic 10 years ago. Apart from bilateral relations, the talks centered in particular on international security issues. Husak again put forward the joint CSSR-GDR proposal for a nuclear weapons- and chemical weapons-free zone in central Europe. Kohl stressed that the Federal Republic supports a worldwide ban on chemical weapons and that he will bring up this issue during his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in February.

The federal chancellor then hosted a dinner for CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal at the German Embassy, at which the good atmosphere of the talks was again evident. This afternoon Kohl will be the first Western head of government to visit the new general secretary of the CPCZ, Milos Jakes, who was elected a month ago. Afterwards, an international press conference is planned. A meeting with the Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, with whom Kohl wants to discuss the situation of the church, is also planned.

Volker Ruehe, the deputy chairman of the CDU/CSU Bundestag group; Horst Teltschik, foreign policy advisor to the Chancellor; and Dieter Kastrup, head of the East European subcommittee in the Foreign Ministry, met prominent members of the human rights movement Charter 77 on Wednesday.

Chnoupek Receives GDR's Florin For Talks

AU261555 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan 88 p 2

[CTK report in the "International Relations" column]

[Text] Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, received Peter Florin, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the 42d session of the UN General Assembly, for a friendly talk in Prague on Thursday [21 January]. They valued the contribution of the 42d session of the UN General Assembly to the strengthening of world peace and international security. They expressed the conviction that the resolutions adopted by the international community, especially on disarmament, international economic issues, and social problems, have the correct orientation and can be implemented through joint efforts by the international community.

Bilak Receives GDR's Sieber For Talks

AU270753 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan 88 p 1

["(Z)"-signed report: "Discussing CPCZ-SED Cooperation"]

[Text] Prague (z)—Vasil Bilak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and Central Committee secretary, received Guenter Sieber, SED Central Committee member and Central Committee department head. In a comradely talk they briefed each other on the developments in their countries. They stressed the interest of both parties in further deepening CPCZ-SED collaboration and in the mutual exchange of experience, reflected in the plan of party contacts for the period 1988-89. They also assessed certain international policy issues.

The reception was attended by Michal Stefanak, CPCZ Central Committee member and Central Committee department head, and by Helmut Ziebart, GDR ambassador to the CSSR.

Reagan State of the Union Address Viewed

LD261235 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0900 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, delivered his State of the Union Address yesterday. Vladimir Solecky, our correspondent, has sent us the following report:

[Begin Solecky recording] President Reagan's last State of the Union Address was welcomed with cordial applause, coupled with a visible mixture of nostalgia, however much the President's speech writers had attempted to demonstrate all around that his administration still intends to achieve something during the last period of his office. President Reagan announced, not merely by words but also by a theatrical demonstration of large budget packages, his intention to push through a new budgetary procedure, which would put an end to the customary pre-Christmas race in the Congress, and a constitutional amendment, which is to ensure that the budget is balanced. Democratic Party leaders later showed in their reply that the entire show contained a great deal of demagogy since the White House has never been interested a great deal in cooperating with the Congress in a timely manner in drawing up a balanced budget.

President Reagan won unequivocal appreciation by spontaneous applause of the assembled congressmen for his recommendation to the Senate to endorse as soon as possible the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, discussion on which begun today in two Senate Committees. Ideological promises were then addressed to Reagan's supporters from among the ranks of the Republican right that the President will continue to fight against the application of the law giving women the right to abortion and for the introduction of prayer in U.S. schools.

The view of Robert Byrd and Jim Wright, representatives of the Democratic Party, of the current state of the American union was naturally substantially more critical. They both showed that hidden behind the ringing slogans about prosperity and democracy is a substantially bleaker reality of the U.S. economy, which is continually losing its ability to compete in foreign markets. [end recording]

Daily on 43d CEMA Session in Moscow

AU261817 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 22 Jan 88 p 6

[Unattributed article: "Forecasts Are Not Coming True...; Economy Is Strengthening, Integration Deepening"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Thus far, the West rejects the commonsense assessment of the irreversibility of socialist economic integration. This is attested to by, for example, the thesis on an alleged disharmony of interests among the fraternal countries that has been the central theme in commentaries in the bourgeois press, especially after the 43d (extraordinary) session of the CEMA session in Moscow. Reporting on the session, the West German newspaper DIE WELT headlined the article "CEMA Meeting Unsuccessful." The newspaper sees failure in the fact that "the heads of governments apparently did not succeed in harmonizing radical measures in

the sphere of setting prices and the foreign currency-financial mechanism." The FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG was of a similar opinion; it claimed that the "proposals to carry out reforms within CEMA cause difficulties," and that the realization of changes comes up against alleged differences in views in the individual CEMA member countries.

However, the essential thing is that at the session all states of the community approved and adopted a document on restructuring the mechanism of multilateral cooperation, of socialist economic integration, and CEMA's activity. During the collective work on preparing the materials for the session, the views of individual countries were carefully sounded out, account was taken of the specific nature of the national economic mechanisms and measures which partners are implementing, with the objective of improving them. We succeeded in arriving at mutually acceptable solutions.

Regarding the issues of price setting and the foreign currency-financial relations, the states of the socialist community agreed to continue studying these with the aim of finding measures which would make it possible to resolve this problem in a way that would correspond to the interests of all participants, and cause no harm to any of them.

French TU Delegations Visits, Holds Talks

AU261442 Prague PRACE in Czech
23 Jan 88 p 1

["R"-signed report: "URO Chairman Held Talks With CGT Delegation"]

[Text] Prague (r)—Miroslav Zavadil, chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions [URO], met with a delegation of the French General Confederation of Labor (CGT) headed by its Secretary Bernard Lacombe.

The URO and CGT representatives briefed one another on the topical political, economic, and social developments in France and in the CSSR, and exchanged views on the role and position of trade unions in the two countries. The CGT delegation displayed great interest in problems connected with the restructuring of the economic mechanism, especially in the URO views on the draft of the Law on State Enterprises, and other documents that are being prepared. The French trade unionists were also interested in the course of the comprehensive economic mechanism and appreciated the possibility of acquainting themselves within the framework of their program with the activity of two enterprises taking part in the experiment, and with the activity of their trade union organizations.

The two delegations also assessed the current development of international relations and fully endorsed the active efforts of the USSR and the other socialist countries for the elimination of the nuclear threat, for disarmament, and the use of resources thus freed for social development. They appreciated, in particular, the recent signing of the Soviet-American treaty on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons. On this occasion, the URO and CGT representatives stressed the importance of the strengthening of international cooperation among trade union organizations with the objective of further strengthening peace and friendship among the working people of countries with different social systems.

CSSR, PRC Sign Sports Contacts Protocol

LD261053 Prague CTK in English
0940 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Beijing Jan 26 (CTK correspondent)—A protocol on sports contacts in 1988 was signed between the Chinese State Committee for Physical Education and Sport and the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Physical Training Association (CSTV) here today

The signatories were chairman of the Chinese Committee Li Menghua and CSTV Deputy Chairman Ernest Demetrovic standing in for chairman Antonin Himl.

The protocol provides for concrete exchanges of delegations and teams to promote sports contacts between the two socialist countries. China will see for instance Czechoslovak gymnasts, track and field athletes, football players and water polo team while Chinese men's and women's handball teams, weightlifters, track and field athletes and table tennis players will visit Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak delegation was received today by Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Huang Hua. The Chinese representative and Ernest Demetrovic underscored the long-standing friendship between the peoples of the two countries which is also evident in sports. They emphasized the importance of new processes in the life of the two countries in implementing the tasks set by the latest congresses of their communist parties.

Bilak Meets With Syria's President Al-Asad

LD262216 Prague CTK in English
2119 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus Jan 26 (CTK correspondent)—Presidium Member and Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee Visal Bilak, currently on a friendly working visit to Syria, was received here Tuesday by Syrian President and Secretary General of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party Hafiz al-Asad.

The two sides stressed bilateral interest in extending relations between Czechoslovakia and Syria, the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the Ba'th Party. Hafiz al-Asad appreciated Czechoslovakia's significant contribution to the development of Syria and its support for peace forces in the Middle East. He emphasized the

Prague leadership is in no hurry to launch a reform? We put these questions to CPCZ Central Committee International Affairs Department Director Michal Stefanak. Here are his answers:

"I consider it difficult, very difficult, to argue that there is no similarity between restructuring and 1968 in Prague. The fact is that restructuring aims at the same results that our party sought to achieve in 1967-68. It is not true that we have rejected everything that happened at that time. The start of the process that began with Dubcek's appointment as Party first secretary was full of positive elements. The troubles came later, when the right-wing current prevailed over the Central Committee as a whole....

"No, we have no plans for a reappraisal of our verdict on 1968. What we said in the well-known 1970 party document entitled 'Lessons deriving from the crisis' remains valid, though after 20 years some points could be elaborated on. As far as I am concerned, for instance, that which in the West is known as the Prague Spring was a valid and positive process until July, until the appearance of the so-called '2,000-word Manifesto'....

"As for economic restructuring here in Czechoslovakia, obviously we do not want to do things too quickly, in 1-2 years. We should think twice about any measures to be adopted in order to avert all possible risks. Basically, when we look around us we see that in the other socialist countries too there have been many errors, leaps in the dark, and dangerous accelerations. We in particular, with the experience of 1968 behind us, must proceed slowly...." [passage omitted]

I met with Michal Stefanak, the Party's international affairs chief at Central Committee headquarters. That very day TASS had at last—at last, according to Stefanak and his colleagues—broached the issue of restructuring and the Prague Spring. After a prolonged and worrying silence (which the Russians very likely used to force Husak to relinquish his post as first secretary) the long awaited message arrived from Moscow. Yes, matters are just as the Czechoslovak party maintains: Restructuring and the Spring are two different things and have nothing in common. The Spring was a negative phenomenon that cannot be reappraised.

I inferred from my conversation with Stefanak that the TASS commentary was forcefully requested, even demanded, by the Prague Politburo. "It does not mean much to us," my interlocutor explained, "that people in the West still say that restructuring and Czechoslovakia's 1968 are the same. The fact is that people in the East, within the socialist community, were beginning to say it. That was intolerable. An outright debate, almost a theoretical discussion, was developing on the similarities between the economic restructuring undertaken in the USSR and what happened in Prague in 1968. It was on this that TASS spoke out—in order to silence the growing speculations within the socialist countries...." [passage omitted]

Pitra on Restructuring in Agriculture

AU261301 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 20 Jan 88 pp 1,3

["From a Speech by F. Pitra," candidate member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, at a joint session of the Czech, Slovak, and Central Committees of the Union of Cooperative Farmers in Olomouc on 19 January]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In defiance of the complicated climatic influences, the results of the agriculture-food industry complex demonstrate the feasibility of the conclusions of the 17th CPCZ Congress and the effectiveness of the measures adopted to ensure them.

The volume of gross agricultural output in the past 2 years essentially reached the planned level. The indicators of the financial plan are being fulfilled; the planned level of profits was achieved. The results in livestock production are good, with all the crucial indicators of the plan for the first 2 years [of the Eighth 5-Year Plan] having been exceeded. The agriculture-food industry complex is successfully coping with the task of reducing its trade deficit in relation to nonsocialist countries. All this has been achieved even though we did not always avail ourselves of all the necessary, and planned, intensification inputs. [passage omitted]

Last year's results and the aggregate results of the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan also establish this year the necessary conditions to meet the exacting tasks of the plan. However, there is one basic prerequisite of this—that we succeed in energetically coming to terms with shortcomings in those areas, in which we record considerable deviations from our targets and plans. [passage omitted]

Where are we not doing well?

First of all, we have to note that the gap between crop and livestock production is widening again. In the last 2 years crop production was 4.7 percent lower than planned, while the planned output of livestock production was exceeded by more than 3 percent.

This disproportion exists despite the fact that last year we reaped 11.7 million tonnes of grain crops, including corn, that is, 300,000 tonnes more than planned. [passage omitted]

The results in grain growing must still be viewed from the perspective of the need to eliminate the shortfall from the first year of the 5-year plan and to more markedly beef up contingency reserves as an essential stabilization factor. Moreover, in view of the growing

demand for pork and some external factors that adversely affect the quality of feed mixtures and influence the overall consumption of grain, we must seek the maximum possible overfulfillment of the planned production of grain.

The state of meeting demands on the quality of wheat for human consumption and malt barley and on the procurement of rye for the needs of the food industry also leaves no ground for satisfaction. Bakeries and malt plants need good quality raw material. The consumer is not interested in the argument that this has been a bad year, which is why the quality of the raw material is poor.

Sugar beet production fell drastically short of the plan. Last year we also witnessed another setback in potato growing. Various concepts have been drawn up at individual levels of management and in agricultural enterprises, aimed at resolving the problems of potato growing in our country by 1990. But with fewer than 3 years to go, the situation is not improving. In some areas it is even getting worse. [passage omitted]

Equally unsuccessful is the current balance sheet concerning fruit and vegetable growing. Moreover, we continue to bear witness to the wasteful use of what we produce. [passage omitted]

The overall assessment of crop production leads to the conclusion that we must mobilize all internal resources to expeditiously eliminate or at least markedly reduce the shortfalls accrued in the 2 years of the 5-year plan so far. The requirement of strict technological discipline and the rational use of all inputs in crop production is accentuated by the challenging tasks ahead of us, as well as by our limited possibilities concerning inputs, which will be roughly at last year's level. We must continue to be prepared to face problems in ensuring the qualitative demand for industrial fertilizers. The situation in pesticides will not improve much either.

I realize that such a statement is more than unpleasant. But, unfortunately, such is the reality from which we must proceed. [passage omitted]

The consumption of industrial fertilizers must be rationalized everywhere in accordance with scientific criteria. However, we cannot permit that in an attempt to cut their expenses, agricultural enterprises, notably economically weaker ones, reduce the consumption of industrial fertilizers below the tolerable extent.

It is clear from what I have just said that comprehensive care for greater intensiveness of crop production remains the number one task.

Attention to Livestock Production [subhead]

Despite the good results of the last 2 years, livestock production, too, calls for the essential attention this year. This is due, above all, to the worsened quality of bulk feed, greater demand for grain feed in connection with the growing demand for pork, and uneven results of grain production in individual regions. In the interest of meeting national needs, it is necessary to increase the procurement of pigs for slaughter and milk compared with the Eighth 5-Year Plan.

Agricultural management agencies and, above all, agricultural enterprises must not fail to react to some disconcerting tendencies in the reproduction of beef cattle. The size of cow herds ceased to be an indicator of the plan several years ago. Nevertheless, it is the decisive factor in concluding contracts for the procurement of milk and cattle for slaughter. [passage omitted] Everywhere it is necessary to make sure that the contracted deliveries are covered by the necessary size of cattle herds. Their unilateral reduction has nothing in common with free enterprise.

We must be realistic and see by what means we meet the tasks in the procurement of beef. In many cases it is at the cost of a great extent of ineffective culling, at the cost of the size of the herds, nonfulfillment of the procurement plan for calves for slaughter, low slaughter weights, and low weight increments. Many regions ensure more than 40 percent of beef procurement with cows and cow calves [prvotelky]. At the same time we are surprised at the high milk production costs.

These are all tasks, the solution of which our agriculture faces in connection with the fulfillment of the 1988 plan. [passage omitted]

What the Discussion on the Law Revealed [subhead]

The seventh session of the CPCZ Central Committee discussed the results of the public discussion on the draft laws [on state enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, and nonagricultural cooperatives]. The more than 14,000 suggestions and comments pertaining to the draft law on agricultural cooperatives confirm great interest in the issues that were submitted for discussion. It was for the first time that cooperative farmers were given the chance to genuine, direct participation in the drafting of their law. [passage omitted]

A total of 63 changes in 52 sections were made in the newly drawn up draft law on the basis of the results of the discussion. The newly drawn up bill reacts to all suggestions and comments of principle that were raised. In addition to comments about individual parts of the law, views and observations were also expressed concerning other problems resulting from the process of restructuring the economic mechanism and from its application to the conditions of agriculture. [passage omitted]

The discussion on the draft laws has been wound up but the work on them will continue in our legislative bodies. What must be done before these laws come into force? [passage omitted]

As regards the law on agricultural cooperatives, it will be necessary, above all, to prepare in due course the statutes of agricultural cooperatives, to draw up a number of regulations to govern the internal life of cooperatives, and to revise all contracts on cooperation in agriculture.

The deadline for the approval of the statutes—end of March 1989—may seem a long way off. But in view of the importance of this basic document of internal life of the cooperatives, work on their systematic preparation must start, of course, much earlier.

At its next session the Central Committee of the Union of Cooperative Farmers should think through what needs to be done for the entire period of preparations for the practical introduction and implementation of the law to become a school of internal cooperative democracy and of enhancing discipline and responsibility.

New Rules in Midyear [subhead]

Several months have passed since the September, 1987 session of the Central Committee of the Union of Cooperative Farmers at Cifer where I explained some basic approaches of the center to the itemization of the restructuring of the economic mechanism for the conditions of the agriculture-food industry complex.

The work on restructuring has made significant progress since then. That is why it can be expected that, roughly in midyear, after being discussed in the Central Committee Presidium of our party and in the federal government, a comprehensive document will be published defining the economic rules, according to which agriculture will operate under the conditions of the new economic mechanism. I would like to assure you that the party and state agencies approach these issues in all seriousness. [passage omitted]

The exceptional attention which the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and the federal government devote to these issues is borne out, inter alia, by the fact that following the approval of the principles for restructuring procurement and wholesale prices last year, at the beginning of this year the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium once again and very thoroughly assessed the course of the restructuring of procurement prices in the agriculture-food industry complex in conjunction with other economic instruments. In this connection we very carefully assessed also a number of thought-provoking and critical remarks raised in the public discussion on the law on agricultural cooperatives. I am thinking, above all, of the concern that the measures under preparation create an essentially equally demanding economic climate for agricultural enterprises operating under diverse conditions, that the line of reinforcing economic accountability be pursued, that some negative consequences of the imposition of the 50-percent deduction from wages be eliminated, especially in the case of labor-intensive productions, and the like.

In particular, we have scrupulously seen to it that the restructuring of economic instruments, which proceeds from essentially uniform criteria for the national economy as a whole, consistently respect the specific conditions of agriculture. It was precisely the concern that these specific features be respected that resounded most strongly in the course of the public debate.

There is continuity between the approved course of restructuring and the current system operating in agriculture, which has acquitted itself well. We are reacting to the weak spots of the current system and carrying on the process that has been started of objectifying economic instruments and deepening their effectiveness.

Essential Objectification [subhead]

The need is becoming apparent, above all, to objectify the level of procurement prices in relation to production costs under average conditions and to make some changes in the price ratios. Since the last major changes of procurement prices, the costs of agricultural production have considerably increased, especially because of the growing price of inputs. As a result, procurement prices cover expenses only in a small number of agricultural enterprises. Procurement prices today defray 82.5 percent of the overall expenses of agriculture. Agriculture is being reimbursed for the other expenses that are recognized as socially inevitable by means of supplementary price instruments and, to a considerable extent, also by non-price instruments.

It is equally necessary to react to the fact that nonagricultural activity today accounts for more than one-half of the profits of united agricultural cooperatives. However, this activity will henceforth be performed under the same economic conditions as the same activity in other branches of the national economy.

It is necessary to eliminate the mounting shortcomings in applying the differential allowance (differential supplementary payments and agricultural tax), that is, instruments which offset differences in economic performance caused by disparate natural conditions. Moreover, we bear witness to a great deal of subjectivism in applying these instruments. In this respect we now analyze the work of many years in determining soil value and in long-term monitoring of climatic phenomena. [passage omitted]

The proposed new classification of enterprises into production-economic groups was discussed with all agricultural enterprises last year. [passage omitted]

All comments that were raised on this occasion are now being checked, a process that must be wound up in the immediate future. In no case can anyone count on being reclassified on the basis of some subjective decisions.

As in Other Branches [subhead]

The greatest change of all and, at the same time, of the greatest impact on agricultural enterprises is the introduction of deductions from wages. Their introduction in the national economy should promote manpower savings and, more generally, a better use of human labor and basic assets and a more purposeful investment policy. It is logical that he who uses human labor must take part in defraying the social cost of its reproduction. This share must be the same throughout the national economy, depending on the wages or remunerations paid.

At the same time it is clear, however, that the introduction of this deduction, without its being considered in other economic instruments, would mean a far more incisive interference into the economy of united agricultural cooperatives than is the case in other economic branches. This is so, above all, because deductions from wages have not been applied in united agricultural cooperatives so far, because of the relatively low level of cooperative farms' equipment with basic assets, and because the wage-intensiveness of the generation of output is twice as high in agriculture than in other branches. Without tackling the consequences, the introduction of deductions from wages would put labor-intensive products at a great disadvantage.

It is for all these reasons that in devising procurement prices and supplementary price instruments it has been necessary to respond to these negative influences, above all, by projecting the whole deduction from wages into the increase of procurement prices and by considering the deduction in differential supplementary payments or other instruments.

In determining price ratios, special attention must be devoted to labor-intensive products, such vegetables, fruit, potatoes, or beef cattle. Where there is a relatively high proportion of direct deliveries to the sales network, such as in the case of fruit and vegetables, a system of price markups will be applied to limit direct impact on retail prices and, at the same time, to prevent small growers, who will not be paying deductions from wages, from reaping undeserved profit.

The specific conditions of agriculture are also being considered in applying the 50-percent deduction from profits. We reckon that, as heretofore, a minimum profit level exempt from taxes will be applied here; this tax-exempt level of profit will be essentially equivalent to the minimum allocation for the development fund.

In short, the point of departure of the adopted course of restructuring is that compensation in agriculture will to a far greater extent than until now be based on price instruments, especially procurement prices, whose share in defraying the expenses of agriculture will increase from 82.5 to 85.8 percent. Supplementary price instruments will continue to be applied. Next to procurement prices and price markups, enterprises' revenues will be made up of differential bonuses: subsidies to enterprises' proceeds pegged to their production-economic group. A new type of a supplementary instrument will be introduced—so-called systemic bonuses, which will be granted to enterprises with a low level of equipment with production assets and impaired initial conditions. The separation of differential and systemic bonuses also makes it possible to separate to a considerable extent the influence of objective natural conditions from other influences, which permits an objective assessment of the true performance of individual enterprises.

Agriculture and the State Budget [subhead]

The set of measures in economic instruments will therefore find its expression in greatly increased compensation in agriculture; procurement prices alone will be raised roughly 20 percent. This arises from the need to realistically assess production factors. [passage omitted] On the other hand, there will be a marked increase in deductions and a partial reduction in some instruments of a subsidiary nature. The resultant relationship of agriculture vis-a-vis the state budget will stay essentially the same, or, to be more precise, it will improve by the planned reduction of costs in the Eighth 5-Year Plan (which is Kcs2.4 billion).

In accordance with the principles of long-term price policy, which were reaffirmed by the 17th CPCZ Congress, the changes being prepared in compensatory instruments in agriculture will have no bearing on the retail prices of foodstuffs. The state will continue to spend considerable funds to offset price differentials [between procurement and retail prices] in this area. This is an important constituent part of its social policy. [passage omitted]

We would be committing a big mistake if we started the year 1988 in agricultural enterprises, but also in the superior management agencies and service organizations, waiting for the publication of the whole set of restructuring measures. Although we will launch an extensive explanatory campaign, it is clear that new thinking cannot be learned in school, at aktivs and schoolings, but that it must be assimilated primarily in actual economic life. Some management workers of our cooperatives have a rather simplified notion of the further course of action. We often hear: "So tell us finally what the new procurement prices, deductions, and other economic instruments will be, we will figure everything out and, according to these calculations, will start to engage in entrepreneurial activity and decide what to produce and what not." This approach does not testify to a correct perception of restructuring. We want the needed and socially desirable structure of production to be achieved predominantly by economic instruments. However, this does not mean that in the new mechanism we do not count on the great political responsibility of farmers for the satisfaction of national needs. [passage omitted]

The considerations to limit the intensity of production, especially production that is labor-intensive and causes a lot of headache, are economically shortsighted. After all, we cannot allow production which society needs to be phased out because of the comfort-seeking of a narrow group of workers, under the pretext of this production not being interesting economically. [passage omitted]

More Effective Methods of Management [subhead]

The process of substituting predominantly economic methods of management for administrative methods of management by injunction will permit us to streamline management structures and limit the size of the managerial apparatus while at the same time improving its comprehensive qualification and competence.

Our criticism of a section of the apparatus of agricultural administrations for its application of long-obsolete administrative methods by injunction—methods that conflict, incidentally, even with the currently valid system of agricultural management—does not entitle anyone to belittle the significant part of these tiers of management in the successes of our socialist agriculture. It would be too shortsighted to assess their role just according to the needs of a few dozen leading agricultural cooperatives in our country.

We seek a change in the content and methods of management. The managerial structures in the center, regions, and districts, the content and methods of their activity, as well as the structure of their qualifications and their size must be consistently subordinated to this aim. Precisely these questions are now the subject of intensive work in the center. The agencies of the Union of Cooperative Farmers will also have an opportunity to express their opinion on this important issue.

Proposals for Which We Wait [subhead]

In discussing at its last session a document on the observance of socialist legality in agricultural enterprises, the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium voiced sharp criticism of the excessive number of motley regulations and norms that conflict with the need to deepen socialist entrepreneurial spirit in agriculture and do not conform with real life. Comrade ministers have been considering measures that are necessary in this respect. I believe that here, too, the agencies of the Union of Cooperative Farmers should show the necessary initiative and contribute with their share and their proposals to the speedy elimination of everything that does not conform with the needs of restructuring. [passage omitted]

The novelty of tasks requires that the Union of Cooperative Farmers, too, reassess its style and methods of work. The issue facing the organization is, above all, to raise demands on the work of its own agencies and individual functionaries and to regularly evaluate their performance and draw conclusions from it, without any outside prodding.

New tasks arise for the union also from the resolution of the Seventh Session of the CPCZ Central Committee on improving cadre work. [passage omitted] The selection of functionaries must be subordinated to the new requirements which activity under the conditions of restructuring and democratization will place on them. The selected people must not only show the readiness and will to work in a novel fashion, but they must also have the prerequisites for it; they must be willing not only to have their say in matters and decisions, but also to bear responsibility for them before the cooperative movement and society at large.

Government Meets, Views Youth, Programs

AU261440 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan 88 p 1

[CTK report: "CSSR Government Held Meeting"]]

[Text] Prague (CTK)—At its session on Thursday [21 January] the CSSR Government discussed a report on the results of the implementation of programs aimed at developing the participation of children and young people in scientific-technical development.

It noted that in the past 3 years the adopted program has been worked out and gradually implemented by respective branches. The number of stations for young technicians and naturalists grew from 300 in 1984 to 1,144 by 30 June 1987. A total of 40 percent of primary and secondary schools have already concluded sponsorship agreements, above all with production organizations. Currently being discussed is the establishment of a statewide information and consultative center in Prague, which is to be ready in 1989, the programmatic orientation of scientific-technical propaganda for children and young people, and the long-term orientation of the scientific-technical creativity of children and young people.

The government stressed that the further implementation of programs can no longer be ensured by administrative methods along the line of state agencies alone, and that this program must be regarded as an important national political task. The government underscored that in this sphere it is necessary to continue to concentrate on having a better conceptual approach to work, and on working out concrete programs of work to prevent haphazardness and the element of chance. It will be necessary to choose well-thought-out forms of propaganda and educational actions which will really encourage children and young people to participate in scientific-technical development and eliminate undesirable formalism. What is involved is the assertion of practical expediency of entrepreneurship in this sphere as regards the ongoing restructuring, with the aim of achieving concrete, tangible results. The clubs, laboratories, collectives, and comprehensive brigades which are being set up do not have the self-serving nature of entertainment and education. In accordance with the concept that has been drawn up,

the practical work of young research, development, projection, and design workers, youth rationalization brigades, and work teams is to yield an annual economic effect amounting to roughly Kcs1 billion from 1990 on.

The second point on the agenda was the participation of the Socialist Youth Union [SYU] in the comprehensive program of reconstructing, restoring, and building small hydroelectric power plants. The untapped hydroelectric potential in our country is considerable, and therefore the Fourth SYU Congress endorsed the plan that SYU members put some 400 small hydroelectric power plants into operation by 1990. The government decision instructed that the necessary legal, technical, and economic conditions for the restoration and construction of these power plants be created in such a way as to eliminate administrative food-dragging and ensure that the work is carried out without necessary delay. For example, territorial [uzemni] decisions, permits to work with water [nakladani s vodami], and construction permits must, as a rule be issued within 1, and in complex cases within 2 months of the submission of applications by builders.

Another two government resolutions proceed from the conclusions of the joint meeting of the CSSR Government Presidium and the Secretariat of the SYU Central Committee last September. The government adopted principles which make it possible for social organizations to negotiate conditions for collecting secondary raw materials that fall under the provisional jurisdiction of national committees, that is, above all, abandoned piles of raw materials. The federal government also agreed that carrying out the function of heads of pioneer camps, their deputies, and leaders of sections be regarded for reasons of public interest as an hindrance to work for which an employer must release an employee.

The government gave its approval for the participation in the comprehensive experiment aimed at raising the independence and accountability of economic organizations for effective development to the following additional organizations: The Radio Communications' Administration of Prague; the Kozak enterprise of Klatovy; the Civil Engineering enterprise economic production unit of Brno; the Czechoslovak Ceramic Enterprise economic production unit of Prague (organizations on the Czech territory); the Transportation Engineering enterprise of Olomouc; the Engineering and Industrial Construction enterprise of Prague; The West Slovak Furniture Enterprise of Bratislava; The Garment Enterprise of Trencin; the Fosfa enterprise of Breclav-Postorna; the Road Constructions enterprise of Kosice; and the Czechoslovak State Spas of Piestany, Trencianske Teplice, and Bardejov.

The government further discussed the draft for the course to be taken by the CSSR's standing representative to CEMA at the next, the 126th, session of the CEMA Executive Committee. It also acquainted itself with the draft of an agreement between the governments of the CSSR and the FRG on inland water transportation and approved it.

Shots Fired as Two East Germans Scale Wall
AU270813 Paris AFP in English
0744 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Berlin, Jan 27 (AFP)—Two East Germans scaled the wall dividing East and West Berlin early Wednesday by means of a ladder, West Berlin police said.

Residents of the West Berlin district of Neukoelln heard shots, apparently fired by East German border guards, but the pair, aged 20 and 23, were not harmed, the police added.

Potsdam Signs Town-Twinning Accord With Bonn
LD261907 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1540 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Potsdam, 26 Jan (ADN)—A town-twinning agreement between Potsdam and Bonn was signed today at a ceremonial meeting of the city assembly in the Schlosstheater of the New Palace of Sanssouci. The document was signed by the mayors of the two cities, Wilfried Seidel and Dr Hans Daniels, and also by Bonn's chief executive, Dieter Diekmann. The work plan for 1988 was also signed. Prior to this, the city assembly unanimously approved partnership relations between the two cities and the draft of the agreement. With this the deputies are making their own independent contribution to the safeguarding of peace and to the development of good-neighborly relations between the GDR and the FRG.

Leuschner Comments on Disarmament Trends
DW270830 East Berlin Domestic Service
in German 1800 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Guenter Leuschner's weekly foreign policy review]

[Excerpt] When Greek Prime Minister Papandreou was in the GDR last weekend, Erich Honecker took advantage of the opportunity to announce that the GDR and the CSSR had agreed on eliminating medium-range missiles deployed on GDR territory prior to the prescribed period. It is a coincidence, but only regarding timing. According to the Washington treaty, the USSR is obliged to withdraw the missiles within 18 months after the treaty has been ratified. When it occurs earlier, it is more than a gesture.

How about the other side attempting something similar? The FRG, as the geographical match to the GDR and the CSSR, is quite appropriate for such a thing. No doubt people there would have no objections. Such a response by NATO would demonstrate both sides' desire to dispose of the disarmament issues quickly.

Speed and smooth implementation seem to be the points for the U.S. Government during the ratification debate starting today in the U.S. Senate—and that is quite understandable. A repetition of the terrible events following the signing of the SALT-II agreement would cause a much worse situation for the acting government than then. Without exaggeration, it would probably be a catastrophe for the still delicate seedling of the new international climate. The world will certainly pay close attention in the next few weeks to see whether the senators are fully aware of the overall implications of their decision.

By the way, the Soviet Union had already introduced the ratification process last week. The agreement was sent on to the Supreme Soviet for examination and subsequent ratification. Yet it must not be thought that there will be no difficulties. It is still worthwhile to reflect on the reason. The term "democracy," which is often quoted, and respect for the will of the people are involved here. The people want the treaty, then want disarmament.

What will be as important for disarmament's future as the result of the ratification debate in the United States will be the upshot of what the West calls NATO's strategy debate. That means the discussion about the future of disarmament or armament. That discussion is still going on, and very controversially. It still seems to be completely uncertain which side will be successful in the end. In that context, Papandreou attributed great significance to the just agreed-upon extraordinary NATO summit on 2 March. It remains to be seen whether the summit will really clarify matters positively. For the time being, one can only be concerned that the disarmament opponents within NATO are again speaking loudly, and especially that they are meeting with little resistance from some governments.

When NATO Supreme Commander Galvin suggests in consecutive interviews closing the gap that was opened by the Washington treaty with new and more sophisticated weapons—thus avoiding the treaty—who is it that authorized him to do so?

Last weekend in London a study was published that suggests deploying 1,000 new tactical nuclear weapons in Western Europe, as well as an additional two to three times as many air-based and sea-based cruise missiles deployed in Western Europe and its adjacent waters as the number of land-based missiles that are to be removed by the INF treaty. It need not be explained what implementation of such recommendations would mean. However, studies like that are currently being issued. The Pentagon or somebody else orders such studies, and there is immediate delivery of what is desired.

Sure, there are other opinions. For example, U.S. Senator Levin, the chairman of a subcommittee for conventional forces, following experts hearings, found out that there is an approximate military balance between East and West in conventional weapons and forces—contrary to common Western propaganda. That is the the result of 13 examined categories of such weapons. Nevertheless, such realistic statements do little to alter the impression that it really can be no accident when so much tolerance is given to disarmament opponents in some Western

countries. It is not their way of appearing that is strange, but obviously the insufficient rejection of their dangerous advice in some capitals. That is why the GDR time and again has expressed its concern—repeated by Erich Honecker last Saturday—that what has already been achieved must not be ruined again. That is why we urge speed in the Washington ratification process, the Vienna CSCE negotiations, and the Geneva negotiations. Each new step in that direction makes it somewhat harder for disarmament opponents. (passage omitted]

Honecker Greets Shevardnadze on Birthday
AU261644 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 25 Jan 88 p 2

[ND report: "Cordial Greetings Message for Eduard Shevardnadze; Erich Honecker Congratulates USSR Foreign Minister"]

[Text] East Berlin (ND)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, has sent the following greetings message to Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs:

Esteemed Comrade Edvard Shevardnadze: On the occasion of your 60th birthday I convey cordial congratulations to you on behalf of the SED Central Committee, the GDR State Council, as well as on my own behalf.

The citizens of our Republic link their work with the consistent striving of the USSR for peace and international security, and with the first agreement in history on nuclear disarmament. Your untiring work aimed at strengthening the indestructible ties of friendship and at developing comprehensive cooperation between our parties, states, and peoples is well known. On your day of honor we would like to convey our sincere thanks for this.

Esteemed Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze, we wish you much success, good health, and creative vigor for your responsible activity.

With communist greetings, E. Honecker

Zion Church Trial Begins 26 Jan
LD261625 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1501 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Berlin, 26 Jan ADN—The trial of eight more people involved in the serious violence last 17 October in and outside of the Zion Church began today before the Berlin-Mitte Municipal Borough Court. They had, as is stressed in the charge, banded together in a group and moved against church visitors with brutal violence. During this, those involved yelled fascist and racist slogans and shouted insults. Inspired by skinheads from Berlin (West) and with the latter's active participation, the violence was from the start directed toward spreading fear, unease, and insecurity among citizens and crudely disturbing public order.

There is no room in the GDR, the state attorney forcibly stressed in his charge, for such activities in the interests of citizens' security under the law and the strict maintenance of the anti-fascist heritage. The Constitution and the law required that such thuggish violence should be pursued committedly to guarantee the peaceful coexistence of citizens.

The trial will continue over the next few days.

Kessler Addresses FDJ Delegates
AU261558 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 25 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] East Berlin (ADN)—The FDJ elections in the National People's Army and the GDR border troops concluded on Sunday [24 January] with the delegates' conferences of the troop units. In the "Arthur Ladwig" motorized rifle regiment Army General Heinz Kessler, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense, familiarized himself with the great achievements and the projects of the FDJ members in the Army. During their conference they pointed out the manifold initiatives in the "11th Party Congress FDJ Assignment." In the past training year 163 army members, 101 units and crews, as well as 40 platoons received honorary titles.

Army General Kessler paid tribute to the impressive record and thanked the young army members of the regiment for their contribution to safeguarding peace and to protecting the socialist achievements.

It continues to be the primary concern of the FDJ organizations in the Armed Forces to contribute to ensuring the required defense capability through high revolutionary vigilance, thus strengthening socialism. Therefore it will be particularly important in the future to develop a firm class standpoint as well as the military mastership of the FDJ members, he stressed.

The delegates assured the minister that through concrete deeds in fulfilling the class assignment set by the 11th SED Congress they will always prove themselves as a fighting reserve of the party.

Other delegates' conferences were attended by deputy ministers of national defense, heads of military districts, chiefs of political administrations, as well as commanders and political members of units and troup groups.

Leaders Public Appearances 15-21 January

[Editorial Report] East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German from 15-21 January reports the following public appearances of GDR leaders (date of publication in parentheses):

Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, received Daw Abdellah Kelani, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Berlin on 14 January (15 January, p 2).

The New Year reception for the Diplomatic Corps given by Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, in Berlin on 15 January, was attended by Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, the Politburo members Hermann Axen, Werner Felfe, Egon Krenz, Guenter Mittag, and Harry Tisch, and Politburo candidate member Margarete Mueller (16-17 January, p 1).

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, the Politburo members Hermann Axen, Horst Dohlus, Werner Felfe, Joachim Herrmann, Werner Jarowinsky, Heinz Kessler, Guenther Kleiber, Egon Krenz, Werner Krolikowski, Erich Mielke, Guenter Mittag, Alfred Neumann, Guenter Schabowski, and Harry Tisch, and the Politburo candidate members Inge Lange and Gerhard Schuerer attended the rally in commemoration of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg in Berlin on 17 January (18 January, pp 1,3).

Hans-Joachim Boehme, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and minister of university and technical school affairs, held a speech during a meeting with teachers of the Karl-Marx Party College in Berlin on 14 January (15 January, p 1).

Hans-Joachim Boehme met representatives of youth collectives in Merseburg on 15 January (16-17 January, p 2).

Hans-Joachim Boehme attended the inauguration of the new rector of the Zwickau Engineering College on 20 January (21 January, p 2).

Werner Eberlein, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, visited a party assembly in the VEB Children's Wear, Oschersleben, on 18 January (19 January, p 2).

Werner Eberlein attended a FDJ group assembly of the Magdeburg Ernst Thaelmann Works on 20 January (21 January, p 20).

Joachim Herrmann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, received Jan Risko, director general of the Czechoslovak Radio on 18 January (19 January, p 2).

Army General Heinz Kessler, GDR minister of national defense and member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, received Sandor Kiss, Hungarian deputy minister of national defense on 14 January (15 January, p 2).

Siegfried Lorenz, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, took part in a joint aktiv conference of the SED and the FDJ of the Karl-Marx-Stadt Bezirk in Karl-Marx-Stadt on 14 January (15 January, p 4).

Gerhard Mueller, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, thanked the Erfurt Workers Militia for its commitment in Erfurt on 15 January (16-17 January, p 2).

Gerhard Mueller was briefed by industrial combines of the Erfurt Bezirk on their plan fulfillment targets in Erfurt on 20 January (21 January, p 2).

Werner Walde, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, visited the miners of Reichwalde and Nochten on 14 January (15 January, p 4).

Szuros On Disarmament, Foreign Policy

LD252228 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1815 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Interview with Matyas Szuros, MSZMP Central Committee secretary and chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, by correspondents Eva Szecsi and Andras Kerekes—live]

[Text] [Szecsi] The guest on our program, as has become a tradition by now, is Matyas Szuros, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee. Since 1983 it is he who has been carrying out the duties of the secretary of the Central Committee responsible for foreign affairs. He is also the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly. This biographical data suggests that he has committed himself to foreign affairs; he represented Hungary in Berlin as ambassador and then held the same post in Moscow. I think I can say with certainty that on Hungarian radio we devote the first Radio Diary of the year to world affairs and Hungarian foreign policy. My recollection is—if I remember correctly—that you have been a guest on the radio five times—this is the fifth. Is this the case?

[Szuros] Yes, this is the case. It is my pleasure.

[Szecsi] I think that the listeners, too, are pleased because they can view you as an experienced interviewee.

[Kerekes] Our telephone numbers, 387-052 and 388-592, have been open since the afternoon. We received questions earlier, even in letters, and naturally you may telephone us during the entire duration of the program. We shall divide the questions before us into three main categories: the so-called superpower politics, that is, the Soviet-U.S. relationship and the issue of disarmament; then the situation of the socialist countries; but most of the questions—and this is something we would expect—deal with Hungarian foreign policy or, speaking more precisely, with the relationship between the Hungarian domestic situation and the homeland's activity abroad. At least 90 percent of the questions deal with the shaping up of the Hungarian-Romanian relationship.

[Szecsi] There is another feature that differs from previous Radio Diary questions: The listeners now make a closer connection between internal and external politics, and I sense in the ideas put forth by them a kind of enquiry: What are we doing, what do we want to do, what do we do? The questions are concerned with actions.

[Kerekes] I suggest that we start. The Washington summit last December between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan was undoubtedly the most outstanding event of recent years. In addition to the signing of the memorable missile treaty, a series of issues—I think we can use this adjective—affecting all mankind was raised. What is the role of summits in general? I ask this because it occurred to several listeners to suggest that in fact the two superpowers were negotiating things over the heads of others. Such views have been expressed at several West European forums as well.

[Szuros] In answer to this I can say that the role of two great leading powers has never been so decisive in the past as it is today. This is the case because it is they who possess more than 90 percent of the nuclear weapons, and they fundamentally influence the development of global questions preoccupying mankind. experience shows that the relationship between them fundamentally affects the development of East-West relations. It follows from this that the significance of summits goes beyond the issues of the relationship between the two countries, it is really the highest and most effective form of negotiations. This is the case with other countries too, by the way. Let us just think, for example, of the summits of the seven leading capitalist countries, or the Delhi six, and so on, and these have historical precedents too, of course. This point is illustrated by the fact that the agreement on the dismantling and elimination of medium-range and shorter-range missiles was concluded in Washington. This agreement is in the interest of all mankind, and it is the first agreement of its kind. It builds confidence and may provide an incentive for the disarmament process in other areas as well.

Regarding the anxiety concerning the conclusion of agreements above the heads of others, the leaders of the two leading superpowers are not in a position—however great and powerful they are—to conclude agreements contrary to the interests of other people, other nations, or to ignore the views of their allies, for example. The potential problems, the actual problems, such as survival, development, and environmental polution, and other problems have brought about an interdependence, a shared fate between countries, regions, and alliance systems. It is an indisputable fact,therefore, that the summit in Geneva in 1985, in Reykjavik in 1986, and in Washington in 1987 have influenced in a positive way the international situation. Summits are of this nature, it is for this reason that they are important.

[Szecsi] In the past the question of the role of small and medium-sized countries meant something different because there was a coolness in Soviet-U.S. relations. Now things are improving, so what does the same question mean today?

[Szuros] According to our experience, the role of small and medium-sized countries is not declining. However, there is no doubt that the role of smaller countries varies in accordance with the way the relationship between the two superpowers shapes up. When the Soviet-U.S. relationship was tense, for example, in the early 1980's, the small countries were able to make the extremist expressions milder and by doing so they contributed to the prevention of a permanent break. On the other hand, during times of an improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations, for example, today, the small countries and the medium-sized ones can play a role in that they provide an

incentive for the expansion of the system of relations and assist in making this process irreversible. By the way, the improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations increases the scope and does make their task easier; and in this way they are able to provide an impetus for progress in East-West relations and on the international scene in general.

[Kerekes] Let us briefly return to the missile disarmament treaty and its consequences, because, quoting primarily West European politicians, several listeners asked whether, if the dismantled U.S. missiles are replaced by other weapons, our continent will be at all more secure. that is, is there a real threat?

[Szuros] It is true that several West European political factors are of the opinion that the implementation of the double-zero option reduces Western Europe's security because , they say, the USSR and the Warsaw Pact have superiority in the field of conventional weapons. This is, of course,, a simplification —it is not completely in line with reality. There is no doubt, however, that there is the danger of an additional rearmament that must be prevented by all the means available. This is a task for us, among others.

Certain previous reflexes play a part here, including decades of mistrust, and also the fact, obviously, that there are vested interests in maintaining conventional weapons—material and business interests of certain circles, for instance.

[Szecsi] We have reached the following questions: There is to be another summit in Moscow. Will they agree there to reduce substantially the most dangerous nuclear weapons? Some people ask whether the planned 50-percent reduction will affect only outdated strategic weapons?

[Szuros] I would begin by saying that yes, there is a chance that the agreement will be signed in Moscow. In a sense, substantive progress has already been made at the Washington summit. The two sides expressed agreement in their joint statement regarding a 50-percent reduction.

My information is that the talks in Geneva are proceeding quite well, but mutually acceptable agreements must, of course, be found in rather complex issues. This is no easy task. There is no doubt that about half the carrier rockets are outdated on both sides, but these should be replaced by modern weapons sooner or later, and this costs a lot of money. In addition to the outdated weapons, modern weapons will also be scrapped, of course, but to a smaller extent.

So, in the end the agreement would prevent the outdated ones from being replaced by more modern ones. This would also have serious economic effects. Both sides would save the cost of modernizing and replacing outdated weapons, which is no small matter. Various figures are thrown up, but there is no doubt that it is a matter of billions of dollars and rubles.

[Kerekes] Now let us stop for a moment to look at another aspect of disarmament. I am referring to European conventional weapons and forces. There are some opinions in Western Europe that, simultaneously with the elimination of nuclear weapons, the quantity and quality of these weapons must be increased. They cite various statistics showing that the Warsaw Pact has long had superiority over NATO. What is the truth in this, according to the Central Committee secretary?

[Szuros] You touch on important things in your question. After the disarmament of shorter- and medium-range missiles in Europe the reduction of conventional forces and weapons will become a key question.

This affects and will affect Hungary directly, by the way. The situation is that within a general equilibrium one side is stronger in one type of weapons and the other side is stronger in others. This circumstances was also pointed out by Mikhail Gorbachev at his news conference in Washington. So worries can come to the surface in both the Warsaw Pact and NATO, because in the field of certain forces and weapons there are undoubted asymmetries on both sides, as I have just said.

For our part, we see a possibility for progress in the need to eliminate imbalances by reducing them to the lowest level possible. In other words, if one side has more of a certain weapon that the other, it must disarm more of these. We are prepared to start negotiations without delay. To give more details: it is well known that in the West it is often said that the Warsaw Pact has superiority with regard to land forces and weapons. According to other opinions, NATO perhaps has an edge at sea and in the air forces. This must be taken into account. If, for instance, the Warsaw Pact has more tanks, as it is alleged in the West, then it should disarm these, or some of these. And if NATO has more fighter bombers, then it should cut them to the appropriate level.

[Kerekes] Several listeners, such as Janos Racz on 685-911, ask if there is a realistic possibility of the two great powers withdrawing partially or completely their troops from European countries in the near future? This question is interesting because our country is directly affected.

[Szuros] This question is justified, as these troops have been stationed on the territories of various countries for more than 4 decades. So the problem crops up not only through a military approach but also in political terms, in my opinion. We have noted with interest the statement of Soviet leaders in which they say they have no intention of stationing their troops on foreign territories until the end of time. Of course the settlement of the

whole question must be placed in the context of international processes and the international situation in its entirety, as it was referred to by Janos Kadar in Brussels.

It is not, by the way, only the two great powers that have troops stationed in other countries, but also Great Britain and France, even Belgium and the Netherlands. But let us say that this is not the essence of the question. Taking everything together, there are about half a million troops stationed in foreign countries in Western Europe, and the number of Soviet troops stationed in Central Europe is roughly the same. This is no small force. The original reasons for these stationings have changed significantly through the years. The question is further complicated by the differing geographical and other endowments of the two alliances. There is no doubt, therefore, that withdrawal can only be placed on the agenda in the context of general trends of the international situation. This of course depends on many things. For example, the entire military attitude must be transformed and capabilities must be made defensive in character. A partial and verifiable withdrawal can also be a significant signal for readiness to agree. This is what I can say on this question.

[Szecsi] So it is not a question of dates, but a question of a stance in principle.

[Szuros] Obviously.

[Kerekes] It is 1988, and you are listening to the Radio Diary on Kossuth Radio. Our guest is Dr Matyas Szuros, Central Committee secretary. Our subject is foreign policy. Our phone numbers are 387052 and 388592.

I am not going to put a question to you now, but rather a group of questions, for I put several listeners' questions together and summarized them: In the largest socialist countries, principally in the Soviet Union and in China, a policy of reform is being implemented. Naturally, this is not a matter of words, but is it justified, in connection with the frequently heard phrases, to speak now about the general renewal of socialism?

[Szuros] In my opinion, socialism in our time is in many respects in a phase of path-searching. I have expressed this opinion several times. It is searching for the ways of renewal. Since this process has unfolded in the Soviet Union and in China too, it can be said that it is truly gaining ground, and the tendency for the general renewal of socialism is becoming more deeply rooted, even if this tendency has not spread to all socialist countries.

It is also my conviction that in the Soviet Union, in China, looking at its logic, what is happening is what we started 20 years ago. I think this does not seem immodest.

From the point of view of the whole of socialism, however, it is decisive that this also started in the Soviet Union and China years ago, and it is also unfolding in other socialist countries. Of course, one must add that socialism is at the start of this new phase of development. I, we, agree completely with the way this is assessed in, for example, the Soviet Union. All the same, it is justified to call it a renewal, for the process runs deep and extends to almost all areas of society's life.

If, therefore, we want socialism to be a society which can be competitive with capitalism in the 21st century—for the essence of socialism is that it goes beyond capitalism in the liberation of man and in other respects—then deeply rooted changes are needed in all areas of economic social life in the socialist countries.

[Kerekes] At the turn of the seventies to the eighties, you were our homeland's ambassador in Moscow. I also spent several years in the Soviet capital around that time, as a radio correspondent. This was the last phase of Brezhnev's term as general secretary. Soon after his death, the enormous paintings of the general secretary were taken down from public buildings, and quotations from him disappeared from street billboards. But what was really interesting, we remember this well, was that they were not replaced by new ones, for this was alien to Andropov's character.

Nowadays, perhaps one of the most interesting pieces of news from Moscow has been that names are changing; old towns are getting back their old names, streets, squares, institutions, too. But I think that both of us, and many people, remember these kinds of rechristenings or christening-back campaigns. Is the question justified, as to whether this is not again just a matter of a change in form? Perhaps I should ask in this way: What is the criterion for a change in content?

[Szecsi] Excuse the interruption. I think of the cases of Stalingrad and Volgograd. It is evident that the form and the content are connected. Perhaps there are also cases of less significance.

[Szuros] Yes. To put it briefly, you are thinking, if I am correct, of the christening-back of places and public areas which bear the name of Leonid Brezhnev. In my opinion, this is not a question of the continuation of an earlier practice. This is what is new in it. In those days, the new general secretaries in practice rewrote party history. Now, however, it is a question of the demand for this so-called tradition to be put to an end.

My personal opinion, and quite decisively so, is that there is no need to change historical place names. I think that in this respect, we in Hungary have also committed mistakes.

In connection with Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, I would like to mention briefly that this process now of christening-back is not accidental, this reverting to old names. It was very strange for me—you know we worked at the same time in Moscow—that the CPSU General secretary wanted at all costs to be a marshal. As a matter of fact, mirrored in this, as the ocean is in a drop, was his whole

conception of the world today. Well, he did become a marshal, and there were rather important consequences of this and of his whole attitude, looking at the Soviet Union, perhaps also in a wider sense, looking at the socialist world, and the workers movement, too.

[Szecsi] Let us turn to our immediate neighbors. A great many questions have arrived in this connection as well. If I understood you correctly, you spoke very subtly a moment ago in connection with the reform policy, saying that it is not being pursued everywhere with the same intensity or at all. Our listeners have asked many questions regarding Poland. I think this is not because there is insufficient information; we receive quite enough information about Poland. However, it is not certain that all the partial information adds up to a full picture. There is a certain lack of understanding about the referendum as well. Thus, the leadership wants a reform policy but, strangely, the population does not support it. This is the contradiction expressed in the questions.

[Szuros] In my opinion, in Poland the leaders definitely want reform and the people support this endeavor. It is another matter that the population voted differently as regards the rate of progress. Unfortunately, I have to say that while we greatly sympathize with the Poles, with our Polish friends, consolidation is progressing slowly there. The reason for this is the contradictory economic development. For example, the development of the commodity and price relations is not satisfactory, inflation is greater than planned, effectiveness and profitability are lower than planned, and so on.

It is also an important circumstance that the development of the reform began in an extremely complex, economically almost catastrophic, situation. Let us just think, how is it possible to realize reforms with sufficient speed, or at all, in such a catastrophic situation? It is very difficult.

Now, what are the consequences? The standard of living is deteriorating, the reform program lacks a sufficient attraction. Under such circumstances it is difficult to regain the confidence of the population. International experiences also confirm that a country can count on successful economic consolidation if the leadership possesses a thought-out, clear program and if it carries it out in a consistent and determined manner.

Now, returning to the referendum, which was held in November. It has had great political significance. I do not know whether it would have been more favorable for the leadership if the people had voted for the accelerated program. It is worth thinking about it. Perhaps I should not go into this; let it remain an open question.

At the same time, because of the slowing of the rate of reform, the solution of the accumulated problems is going to take longer. Thus, a rapid advance unfortunately cannot be expected in Poland.

Let us say something about the leadership as well. I regard General Jaruzelski as a very talented and very likeable leader; I think perhaps I can express my personal opinion here. Why? They are developing a consistent, wise policy full of initiative in Poland. But in what sort of situation? It is not easy to carry it out. Their endeavor is to achieve optimal solutions under the given circumstances and that this should provide a guarantee for the future.

[Szecsi] As could be expected, we have received letters and telephone calls from listeners about Czechoslovakia as well. After all, there were important personnel changes there recently. One of our listeners asked over the phone: Does this amount to a new beginning?

[Szuros] I often say that just as there are no two people who are the same, there are no two countries that are the same either. The reforms, renewal, and reconstruction must be realized in different countries in different ways. As regards the personnel change in Czechoslovakia, I would like to formulate my own opinion in an unequivocal manner: I regard it as a positive step and change.

Of course, Czechoslovakia has had to face serious challenges. The most important of these is that this socialist country has lost some of its position as regards its level of industrial development. The new general secretary, Comrade Jakes, has also spoken of the need for change. He spoke about it at the December Central Committee session. Incidentally, the policy of the Czechoslovak Communist Party is based on ensuring continuity; but it is important that they stress with increasing emphasis—and perhaps by now they are doing it as well—the new approach. They stress the complex character of restructuring, the need for it to extend to the whole of society, just as we do.

[Szecsi] Thus, it is not only an economic but asocial reform policy.

[Szuros] And it should extend to the system of political institutions, and so on. Now, it can be observed that in Czechoslovakia the reform impulses come from above, mainly from the government. Of course, for the time being one cannot expect a rapid and radical transformation; after all, the ingrained habits of several decades have to be changed. This is how I interpret the change in the post of general secretary as well and, as I have mentioned, I regard it in a positive light, and this is how I evaluate the negotiations that the new general secretary has conducted in Moscow. They point in this direction of renewal.

[Kerekes] I have a small bundle in my hand. I expect that the secretary of the Central Committee is not surprised that many questions have arrived concerning Romania, not only regarding Hungarian-Romanian relations but also concerning the situation in Romania, with particular emphasis on the economic and political events of recent months, which presumably played a part in the

fact that even the national party conference was convened only after two postponements. Let us try to answer first of all, what is the situation in Romania in the wake of the party conference?

[Szuros] We see that the Romanian Communist Party held the conference at a difficult time. The Brasov events, among other things, also indicate this. But I would like to say right away, at the outset of answering this question, that we are interested in a prosperous, developing neighboring Romania. Thus, let no one think that perhaps we look at this question from a different perspective.

Thus, that certain party concerence took place at a difficult time. Why? Romania has disputes with the International Monetary Fund, with the Common Market, it has also difficulties in its important bilateral relations. Thus, both its internal and its external situation is rather difficult. At the conference they drew up the balance of the economic situation of the country. As they have said, the results fall below the targets and below realistic economic possibilities. They reaffirmed the main theses and goals of the policy pursued up to now, stressing that the economic policy is correct. General Secretary Ceausescu said something to the effect that had they not pursued this road, the standard of living might be 20-30 percent lower than at present.

They criticized and firmly rejected the market economy. They stressed the importance of central planning. It was announced that wages would be raised in 1989 and in 1988—let me quote—a tremendous quantity of meat would be delivered to the domestic market, and so on.

Though they stressed that Romania is a united nation-state, for the first time since perhaps 1982, they gave figures at the news conference concerning education for the nationalities, and spoke about uniting families. In conclusion, therefore, my view is that in the near future one cannot really expect any substantial change in Romania's internal and external policies.

[Szeczi] In other words, these are only signs, symptoms, but do not indicate any substantial change.

[Szuros] I think this is so. At the same time, it must be seen that in certian areas Romania has, of course, made achievements. One area, for example, is industrial development. Here, however, there are serious problems regarding effectiveness.

[Szecsi] I think that there will be other questions concerning Romania later on.

[Muscial interlude] [Kerekes] We received many questions during this musical interlude. Let me single out one that deals with a different subject than the others in general. Istvan Szabo, telephone number Kapuvar 42-391, asks whether the present tension between North and South Korea would be able to influence our participation in the Olympic games.

[Szuros] No. The deadline for the application for participation in the games was 17 January. The widest attendance in the history of the Olympic games may be expected: According to my knowledge, 161 countries have so far, or rather, before the deadline, made known their wish to participate. Well, the majority of socialist countries, including our homeland have applied—I think the radio listeners learned about this from various sources. However, the DPRK, Cuba, Albania, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua have not applied, but we do not consider it necessary to connect this to the ideal of the Olympic games and participation in them. In any case, we must be aware that it is a large number, but there will be countries who stay away. It is our resolute intention to participate, as we have officially announced.

[Szecsi] I think that now we can really turn to issues relating to Hungarian foreign policy, the situation of Hungarians living beyond our borders, and Hungarian diplomacy. You, too, have prepared for this, I think, and roughly half of our program time is left for this subject. Thus, here is the first question—several questions relate to this—inquires whether our reputation, which has been so good hitherto, is worsening in the world as a result of our increasing debt stock. Excuse me, but it has been a tradition in the past to allow the presenter to ask questions herself. I read the French press and I sense that its tone has changed somewhat in that there are articles now about the nouveau riche and nouveau poor in Hungary; that is, the picture they paint of Hungary is not as rosy as it used to be. They do not put a gloss on us anymore.

[Szuros] Yes, the picture is contradictory. The assessment of our economic situation has become more nuanced and more critical in the past 2 of 3 years, and in accordance with our worsening output the judgment about us has grown worse too. However, the international assessment of our politics remains favorable, and to some extent it has even improved in recent weeks. The fundamental reason here is the continuation of our internal reforms. The resolution of the Central Committee in July last year about the resurgence program and the adoption of the government's working program brought about some change in this worsening picture. The most significant commentaries have singled out that the leadership of the country realized, albeit with delay, the seriousness of the situation and and the strength to revise and modify the direction of development adopted by the 13th party congress. It elaborated in a wide-ranging social debate a program that gives the possibility for recovery. Now, at the end of January, we see that the main cooperating partners of Hungary are urging further determined steps in the implementaion of decisions made about the correct direction at last. The overwhelming majority of these partners also deem that through the execution of the program our economy is capable of renewal. Therefore, they focus their attention primarily on the consistency of the implementation, the creation of the political and institutional conditions of stabilization and resurgence. At the same time one can observe a

certain anxiety, and the expected unfavorable social and political consequences of our measures also preoccupy our foreign partners. To sum up briefly, I could say that a critical Hungarian image is shaping up, but our willingness to act, the implementations of our measures,and the intention to solve our problems and the openness of their handling is surrounded by modest praise, recognition. In the end Hungary has a good name and position in the world, while it has changed as a result of the assessment of our economic situation, of course.

[Kerekes] In connection with this, you mentioned worsening results. Well, the central task of the coming years is to halt and then reduce Hungary's indebtedness—a process which last year surprised the population not so much by its size but by the way this money we have to repay under any circumstances was spent. The public more and more often inquires about this aspect: Did we make use of this money meaningfully? Several of our listeners asked: Are we at least making use of this money rationally? For example, the DM 1 Billion FRG credit received recently. Let me add in this connection that there are those who think that the country is finding it increasingly difficult to obtain long-term credit. This proves at least that there is an economic crisis in our country.

[Szecsi] They say that those who are in crisis are not given a loan.

[Szuros] I have said at other times that in my view what there is in Hungary is not so much an economic crisis but an ethical, moral crisis and perhaps, let us say, the direction, the leadership leaves something to be desired. But it is indisputable that our economic situation is also very complicated. In other words, the question you are asking is justified. The rational utilization of the loans received is a key question of our economy. It has been the case in the past as well but the inconsistencies of our economic management, the difficulty of gaining a comprehensive grasp of the economic operations, and the breaks in the reform process have prevented the creation of a competitive industrial structure.

Therefore, a large proportion of the invested loans has not brought the expected profit. What's more, a large portion of the credits—should I say, as a result of a faulty economic policy ideas—has been used for consumption.

Now, what can be the most major guarantees of credits being put to good use? Although I am not a real expert on this question, but paying attention to and listening to expert views, in my opinion, it can be perhaps summarized as follows:

Firstly, it is a decisive political economic intention for the continuation of the reform. This fundamental demand can be a guarantee. Secondly, it is that we have a clear and unambiguous program for formulating priorities, which I referred to earlier. Thirdly, it is that people's demand has grown, that there is supervision of how the credits taken up are used. In what way, for example, with or without the participation of the National Assembly, that is a different question. However, it is indubitable that the question of the need for supervision has arisen. On the basis of all these, there continues to be confidence, willingness to help, and interest too, in the West, toward the success of our program.

[Szecsi] Does this mean that we will receive this help?

[Szuros] Yes. We have managed to sign credit agreements necessary for financing the most important investments featuring in our plans, with the World Bank, and its subsidiary establishment, the International Financial Affairs Company [Nemzetkoezi Penzuegyi Tarsasag]. We have also signed agreements with the banking consortiums of countries such as Japan and the FRG, which have the greatest free capital.

Now, as regards the one billion [currency unspecified] Premier Karoly Grosz, after the credit had been taken up, said that the government wishes to advertise a determining part of it through open competition, what is more, for the furtherance of the transformation of the economic structure, which is the essence as a matter of fact. This now just has to be adhered to. We must turn a smaller part of it toward payments due on interests.

However, in the longer term, we are endeavoring to reduce taking up further loans. Primarily, we should halt the increase of the debt by 1990, and afterward we should reduce it, either in relation to the national income, or in its absolute value.

[Szecsi] There was a listener, whose name we did not note, because he did not have a question, but just said: At last, thank you, the new Hungarian passport law has been created. Now, we would not be Hungarians if we could not put this same question in a negative way: We have the new passport law, everyone can get a passport, but when people ask for visas, they are asked how much money they have, and perhaps they might not even be let in. So, how was this received?

Apart from this, we have another question. I do have the name and telephone number here. It is indirectly connected to this, but it is of this nature. Istvan Szucs calling from 210 988, heard on the radio last week that there was a 3-day Hungarian-Soviet consultation about facilitating travel between the two countries. Does this affect the lower Carpathians where many people have relatives? Can assistance be expected in travel? So...passport...reception, and can we travel, and where?

[Szuros] Well, we experienced great interest everywhere in the aforementioned law decree, not only inside the country, but also on the international stage. In addition they fundamentally spoke with appreciation of this. The commentaries pointed out that the Hungarian travel regulations, which were already up to now among the

most liberal, had undergone a qualitative change. It became the fundamental human right of every Hungarian citizen to travel abroad. This can only be changed in quite exceptional circumstances, for example, for state interests.

The bureaucracy involved in obtaining passports has also been significantly reduced, although perhaps there could be debate about this. There were of course those who highlighted the psychological effects of the reduction of restrictions. Namely, that in a difficult economic situation, the government wishes to improve the mood of the population with this. If this is so, this is not to be disparaged either.

[Szecsi] Well, of course it improves it, doesn't it?

[Szuros] Well this is indubitable. To be just, I must also say that in the decisive majority of cases, the major impediment to traveling was not, even up to now, obtaining a passport, but rather, possessing the material means. Now, it is also likely that fundamentally it will be those in a better situation in society who will be able to take advantage of the new possibilities.

Let me note that the Western hard currency corresponding to the 3,000 forints minimum necessary for a single exit grants very restricted possibilities. So here is the other side of the coin, that the Spanish, for example, will only let in tourists who have hard currency equivalent to $360. But, the French and the Swiss or the English will also not let tourists in with so-called pocket money.

[Szecsi] They ask for a daily quota.

[Szuros] Yes, so I am conveying to, or advising every traveler to check the latest regulations, which are different from country to country, as to how, and with what amounts they can travel into each country.

Now in my opinion, the passport regulation, together with all the other new measures, rests on bases of principles. It is not a tactical step. It fits in here in Hungary with the process of widening our democracy, characteristic of which are the further perfection of human rights. Finally, perhaps it is not an exaggeration to declare that, through the new passport regulation, the Hungarian borders have become more permeable in nature, something which was often raked up earlier. Our population has become closer to Europe and as well as the world at large. This is an important matter.

[Kerekes] Yes. Now, you also mentioned that obviously it will be primarily those who are better off who will travel, that we must count on this.

I would like to ask about a different kind of travel in connection with this. I am interested in the travels of leaders and professional diplomats. This belongs to the concept of work. Now, in connection with this, nowadays, more and more people are asking whether our leaders do not travel too much. Is what is spent proportionate to the results? What is the reason why, or what encourages Hungary to conduct such an active foreign policy? What direct profit does this have for the country?

[Szuros] Yes, first of all, the question needs to be corrected. The pursuit of an active foreign policy does not necessarily mean travel. This is my first remark. In recent years one has really been able to sense that our international activities have been stepped up. So Hungarian foreign policy has become more active, and so have the movements. The most fundamental reasons for this are perhaps the following: increased demands of our internal development and contribution to the creation of a new international climate. Or, as we have tended to say, perhaps all too often, we are trying to build suitable external conditions for our internal country building work.

As to the question of whether our leaders travel a lot, my answer is an unambiguous no. I can say with responsibility that the travels of our leaders, or higher level leaders, usually take place after the most thorough preparations and always have strong political or economic reasons. They usually have their results. There are of course certain changes here as well. I presume this is what the listeners are most interested in. We have regulated the use of the so-called "government plane." We have restricted it to a very narrow circle, the top three leaders. The rest can only take the plane, if they can take it at all, under very strict regulations.

[Szecsi] Even queens travel on scheduled flights.

[Szueroes] Yes, although the same queen's foreign minister arrived in Hungary on a special flight, which was not noticed so much, but this is another matter. It does not belong here. And we are thinking of, and endeavoring for, restrictions on other formalities so the population can feel we are striving for efficiency and a lack of formalities.

As regards lower level travels, it is probable that the situation is not always similar to this. But the trends in our political and economic sitution and the limited funds which economic and budgetary organs have at their disposal for this purpose must force everyone to think more in the future.

It is probable, for instance, that numerous trips abroad could be solved by a few telephone calls or telex messages. I remember the period when I was the man responsible for Soviet affairs in the Central Committee. At that time we noted that in 1 year there were 7,000 official trips abroad, and the reply to this was not the most correct. And later on, when I was ambassador in Moscow, this figure had risen to 14,000. It had doubled within, let's say, 10 years. I could give other examples. So my opinion is that numerous trips abroad could be

settled with a few telephone calls or telex messages. And the choice of route, number of delegation members, length of stay, etc., have more than a few financial consequences.

Let me give you a peculiar, exotic, example. Several hundred people visited Singapore last year, officially for business reasons. This represents a more than five-fold increase in travel within 3 or 4 years. Yet Hungarian exports in that period did not even double. So you can say that Singapore is a transit point and this is partly understandable. At the same time I could give another example, namely the situation is roughly the same in Thailand and Malaysia. The number of visits there was greatly increased, while Hungarian exports to these destinations have barely risen. And I could go on.

It is my conviction that we must create clean political and economic conditions, which are more selective in this area as well. Abuses must be strictly punished with consequences that can be felt in the pocket, too. I consider the question justified, but visits that are necessary must not be restricted under any circumstances. So greater than hitherto political and economic responsibility is needed, primarily on the part of enterprise leaders, as well as vigilance, watchful conduct, and organization.

[Szecsi] Our next theme is Romania. This is not the first time this question cropped up...

[Szuros, interrupting] Even in this program of ours.

[Szecsi] Many listeners have dictated questions about immigration, waiting times at the border, family reunifications, etc. I think there is another question on this theme.

[Kerekes] (Lilla Makai) asks: When are we going to be able to hear on Hungarian radio and television and read in the press an official stance regarding the matter of the Hungarians of Transylvania?

[Szecsi] Yes this is not the first time this question crops up. So what does the Hungarian Government intend to do for the Hungarians living in Romania? Last year you stressed that we were very resolute in the desire to act. Do we now have suitable means at our disposal?

[Szuros] Well, this is a sensitive and complex question, as everybody knows. At the same time it is only natural that we expected this question to be asked. We do not want to stir up trouble. Rather, we speak about this question with helpful intentions, as we did in the past. But this is a complex issue and I shall endeavor to be precise.

Looking back on the past 3 years the unambiguous conclusion is that—also taking our limited means into account—it has been, and continues to be, a determined endeavor in Hungarian politics to act consistently and in a principled manner to improve the plight of Hungarians wherever they live in the world. We must unambiguously state that those of Hungarian nationality living beyond our borders, especially the Hungarians living here in the Carpathian basin, constitute a part of the Hungarian nation.

I agree in this respect also with the statments made by Hungarian historians, academicians. The last person to speak on the issue, for example, was Academician Gyula Juhasz, and Zsigmond Pal Pach [a historian] also studied in detail the question of nation, nationality, consciousness, etc. So they constitute a part of the nation. So they are right to expect Hungary to feel responsible for them also in any circumstance, to speak up with appropriate firmness about discrimination against them, to have consideration for them when shaping international ties and to assert their interests too.

This endeavor is expressed by our initiatives aimed at establishing reassuring guarantees for the rights of nationalities, submitted at various international forums. In the case of constructive partners this intention is realized in our international cooperation, and cooperation on the nationalities question, with Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Austria. It is true that I have spoken in detail about all these things in previous "Radio Diary" programs.

We want to make our Romanian friends also conscious of the honorable nature of our intentions. I would like to quote the beautiful words and true thoughts of our great writer Andras Sutoe which I jotted down in preparation for this program. The reason I wish to quote him is that he lives there, in Transylvania, and he senses better the worries and situation of the Hungarians living there. And I also know that he is without prejudice because he loves not only the Hungarian nation, but loves and respects the Romanian nation too. So I would like to quote Andras Suetoe:

"A nationality, especially if we are talking about a people of nearly 2 million which is ethnically a part of a nation which lives within the framework of its own state, is justified in demanding that the notion of equality should not be reduced to a few general human rights. These are fundamental and extremely important rights, but they do not exhause the conditions which can preserve any nationality in its ethnic existence. Its general development and even its survival is therefore only secure if it possesses collective rights too, beyond individual rights as citizens, if it can bring into life its own cultural environment and if it can fill that with its own natural culture, in the same way in which the nation does in whose state the nationality in question lives. And let us continue with countless "if's": If its network of schools are available from the kindergarten to university in its mother tongue; if the use of its mother tongue, its national language, is possible beyond private life, in public life too; in speech as well as writing; if the state takes care to ensure that constitutionally-proclaimed rights are not distorted by local, subjective, interpretations; if the nationality's normal links with its own nation, with its

cultural and scientific life, are guaranteed; if it really can be the bridge between the nation of its own state and the nation to which it belongs ethnically."

To these beautiful and meaningful words I would like to add the following: For the mother nation it is naturally a fundamental requirement to take the most resolute steps through bilateral channels and by involving the whole Hungarian nation in order to create the rights and conditions listed by Andras Suetoe. No matter what unfounded accusations are voiced, no matter how the words "interference in internal affairs" are trumpeted, our comrades, friends and partners all know that our country respects the norms and realities enshrined in international documents. As a consequence of our socialist principles and openness, we must work with tenacious consistency to ensure that those belonging to the Hungarian nationality, who form a part of the Hungarian nation, should be able to participate as equals in the development of the country of whose citizens they are. The Romanian policy does not as yet truly wish to be a partner in this. This is our experience. So that this should change, and that we should make progress in the sphere of Hungarian-Romanian relations as well, we do not wish to make use of the intercession, so to speak, of factors falling outside our bilateral relations. However, we shall make use of all those political, economic, cultural and informational possibilities which belong exclusively under the sovereignty of the Hungarian People's republic.

It is our firm conviction that this correct, open conduct aimed at the expansion of relations is the one that truly serves the interests of the Hungarian and Romanian peoples and the cause of social progress. This is a general human problem and one that directly affects both peoples.

[Kerekes] I should imagine that not only I but all of us are very pleased to have had political confirmation, so to speak, of the scientifically well-founded truth that the Hungarians living beyond our frontiers are also a part of the Hungarian nation. Now, in this connection public opinion is increasingly interested in what possibilities we possess. For example, are there legal regulations in our country for the humane settlement of the refugee question? A tremendous number of questions have raised this issue.

[Szuros] To the best of my knowledge there is no Hungarian law of general validity dealing with the situation of political refugees. So far it has appeared sufficient for the minister of internal affairs to evaluate each application individually. Of course, this question has now once again come to the fore, and very seriously so. As was discussed also at the session of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, in recent times foreign citizens, mainly of Hungarian nationality, have to a growing extent asked permission from our authorities to stay temporarily legally in Hungary. Their action is perfectly natural, since people who have been wounded through their Hungarian identity, or in general, injured people, who are Hungarians, where else could they turn but to the Hungarian People's Republic? After all, there is one Hungary in the world.

Hungary, for its part, feels responsible from a moral, political and human rights perspective for the Hungarians living beyond our borders. We consider that our humanist-socialist principles and the credibility of our statements relating to the Hungarian national minority living beyond our borders make necessary the development of a long-term solution which corresponds to our interests and is reassuring for those affected, and which we can realize in a sovereign manner. I would like to emphasize, however, that all this does not relate to those who leave their country for economic reasons or those who arrive in Hungary illegally. In these cases we have to continue to abide by the obligations set down in bilateral agreements and to certain international legal norms.

In recent times our state organs have been working intensively in this spirit on the development of the appropriate legal and other conditions. This is not an easy task. At the same time it is unfortunate—to some extent unfortunate and at the same time, of course, to some extent understandable—that until the precise stand is worked out, measures may be taken which can be misinterpreted and which can aggravate people's mood. I wish to stress with the greatest emphasis that until the development of the appropriate regulations and conditions, we do not wish to take official steps against those temporarily staying in our country. I would like to say at this point that since the beginning of January a rumor has spread—and has been spreading on an ever larger scale, growing almost like an avalance—that the Hungarian Interior Ministry organs have expelled about 200 Romanian citizens of Hungarian nationality.

[Szecsi] Yes, there have been questions about this.

[Szuros] I have to tell you that this sort of thing is far from the Hungarian organs, the relevant Hungarian organs, and I would like to use this opportunity to state that this does not accord with the truth. As a result of a misunderstanding, a good many people have been sent a summons, but no one has been forced to leave the country—not since 1 January, either.

I received a letter from Goeteborg today about this. This rumor has had a tremendous effect internationally. I do not know who spread it, but it was spread with great speed. Consequently I find it necessary to deal with this question on this occasion.

Now, beyond what has been said so far, we must make it known that the interests of the Hungarian People's Republic dictate, and the historical experiences and the generally accepted international norms confirm, that the Hungarian national minority, including its intelligentsia, together with the sons of other nations cohabiting with them, should remain in the land of their ancestors, should not emigrate, and, above all, should not disperse

all over the world. I think everyone can understand this. At the same time, we are aware of the concrete situation and know the concrete cases. Thus, it is perhaps easier to formulate the very beautiful principles and requirements in this way. Nonetheless, I would call attention to this. Their task is that in the awareness of the firm support of the mother nation and other peoples, they should strengthen their Hungarian consciousness in their closer community, if necessary raise their voice against the transgression of laws, so that the Hungarian nationality should be itself, a particular color in the totality of a state, where the dignity of its particularity is respected. It is not easy to say anything more on this question.

[Kerekes] I hope your words will reassure many people.

[Szecsi] Excuse me, we have to omit a lot of questions which would have been very interesting. We have an important economic or economic policy question remaining before we sum up. What kind of help does the Soviet Union provide, if any, toward the solution of our economic difficulties? Several listeners asked this and one asked whether it is true that the production of one ruble in Tangiz costs us 300 forints.

[Szuros] Before anything, I would like to say that we, ourselves, must solve our domestic problems. Of course the Soviet Union is readily supporting us and, according to her means, is assisting the solution of our problems. By the way, the stabilization of Hungary is not only in the interest of Hungary but is a universal socialist interest as well: it has a meaning and significance of general validity. As I have already mentioned, the Soviet Union is ready to help but her means are limited. It cannot give real dollar or ruble credit. The substantive materialization of Soviet internal transformation is still to come and this too weighs heavily on the shoulders of the Soviet Union. The possibilities and facts have been raised one by one on the basis of high level agreements, or at negotiations that the Hungarian convertable payment burden may be eased. In Hungarian-Soviet cooperation there is a possibility for capitalist import substitution, and via Soviet purchases in hard currency it is also possible to ease the difficulty of our situation. Some results have come out of this. However, a growing Hungarian surplus is shaping up, and this presents a cause for concern. This should be eliminated not by the holding back of our exports but to compensate for it with surplus Soviet deliveries. The long-term substantive solution would be if we could create the modern conditions of cooperation and if we could establish the forms of this.

Now, let us speak about Tengiz. What have we considered here in this respect? The proportion of mineral gas in our energy balance is growing, domestic gasfields are near exhaustion, and therefore the way out of this is to import. The long-term solution is to import it from the Soviet Union. The form of this is investment contribution. The Soviet mineral gas is more expensive under the Yamburg mineral gas program than it was under the Orenburg program, but we shall need mineral gas after 1991. Therefore, we maintain the agreement, but as a result of our current problems we are not participating in the extension. Another solution would be more expensive than this.

Now let us speak about the factual costs. Generally speaking, if my knowledge is accurate, it costs us roughly on average 80 forints to produce one ruble in the Yamburg program, including Tengiz as well. Production in Tengiz of one ruble is high, about 150-170 forints, approximately. Therefore, the news about the average 300 forints is lacking foundation.

[Kerekes] Our program time is almost at an end. There is time for only one question. One of the features of recent times is that we have spoken more openly than usual about our economic and other kinds of difficulties. Now that favorable changes can be observed in international politics, in superpower politics primarily, one would think that the foreign policy scope of the individual countries their room for maneuver increases. but the opposite of this also may be logical. What can Hungarian diplomacy, Hungarian policy do in these circumstances? Are there concrete plans for the easing, the moderation of our domestic difficulties which is judged to be the most important task?

[Szuros] Yes, foreign policy, using its own tools, must place in the forefront in an enhanced manner and in every sphere the assisting of the domestic economy. Helping the economy is the most important task of diplomacy as well. Naturally, we are aware that foreign diplomacy cannot take over entirely the tasks of economic diplomacy. Therefore, we endeavor to make increasingly good use of this for the easing of our international conditions which are becoming more and more difficult. Socialist foreign economy is the most important background in the solution of our economic problems. At the same, time the fundamental renewal of socialist integration is a basic matter of survival for us because it is a precondition of our joint and individual advance as well. Going beyond this and stemming from our situation in Europe we endeavor the deepening of East-West cooperation. Now, for example, it is our concrete and resolute intention to sign a mutually advantageous agreement with the EEC. It is in this way and in similar ways that Hungarian foreign policy, diplomacy promote the solution of our internal difficulties and the easing of our economic problems.

[Szecsi] Thank you very much for your answers, on behalf of the listeners too, I think. I am sure that you are not angry since you are an experienced guest of ours that we have hurried you on in order to go faster and to keep to the program timing.

MSZMP Official Returns from PSOE Congress

LD261923 Budapest MTI in English
1858 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Budapest, January 26 (MTI)—On Tuesday the delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party headed by Istvan Petrovszki, member of the HSWP

Central Committee, head of the CC's Party and Mass Organization Department returned from Madrid where they, at the invitation of the Spanish Socialist Worker's Party (PSOE), attended the 31st congress of PSOE on January 22-24.

The Hungarian delegation met Elena Flores, member of the PSOE's executive committee, the party's secretary for foreign affairs. The HSWP delegation also had negotiations with Simon Sanchez Montero, member of the executive committee of the Spanish Communist Party, secretary for foreign affairs and other leaders of the party.

Lukacs Meets With Visiting SFRY Delegation

LD261908 Budapest MTI in English 1830 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Budapest, January 26 (MTI)—Janos Lukacs, secretary of the HSWP Central Committee met the delegation of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia visiting Hungary at the invitation of the National Council of the Hungarian People's Patriotic Front. At the meeting Janos Lukacs informed the visitors on actual domestic issues, on the role of the social organizations and the relation between the patriotic front and the party.

Deputy Foreign Minister Horn Visits Iran

For Iranian media coverage of the 4 day visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Gyula Horn to Iran, including his talks with Foreign Minister Velayati, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Mo'ayeri, and Agricultural Minister Zali, see the Iranian section of the 26 January edition of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

USSR Komsomol Delegation Arrives in Budapest

LD260437 Budapest MTI in English 1550 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Budapest, January 25 (MTI)—On Monday a delegation of the Soviet youth union, headed by Nikolay Dolgushkin, secretary of the Central Committee of Lenin's Komsomol, arrived in Hungary on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth Union of Hungary (KISZ). Talks were held on the youth policy of Hungarian political and social organizations, the implementation of the youth act and the organizational and cadre work of KISZ.

Industry Minister Outlines Economic Problems

LD262128 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] At the session of the central leadership of the VASAS [Metal and Electrical Power Workers] trade union many people complained about the poor wages and development possibilities. Industry Minister Frigyes Berecz also took part in the debate. Laszlo Gardai asked him first of all to qualify the work of industry last year:

[Begin recording] [Berecz] The economy moved away from a nadir—I would not say a dead end, since the economy was alive and functioning even in 1986. Compared to that there was a decisive but not a sufficiently great move forward. What lies behind that is that the Hungarian economy, and within that the structure of Hungarian industry, does not satisfy the demands, the domestic endowments, or the demands of the world market. This condition has arisen as a result of the distortion of work over many decades. By the end of 1988 we must achieve some tangible move forward in the field of structure alteration, as well.

[Gardai] Many more people will have to be found new work, new jobs, than in 1987.

[Berecz] That is indeed the case. And we should prepare for a reorganization of enormous proportions. Let me say that once the Hungarian economy has become settled and it once again functions amid normal balance conditions, then this process will now slow down but will speed up. For then even more money will be available for technological development; production units will be able to be much more modern and productive than today, and from that it will follow that even with growing production an ever smaller workforce will be needed.

[Gardai] What problem did you come across most often on this occasion? What was the common problem among the speakers?

[Berecz] Well, quite unequivocally, they complained about the shortage of developmental possibilities, that we demand a great deal from the enterprises and that in return we make very few resources available to them—very few, both in regard to enterprise development and wage development. This was expressed by many speakers and this is a difficult situation, it is true.

[Gardai] You also mentioned that a proportion of the contracts have not yet been concluded. This affects Hungarian enterprises quite seriously.

[Berecz] You are referring to the system of bilateral interstate agreements. It is very difficult for enterprises to understand this, but understand they must, that the basic problem is that we can only trade with the socialist countries if the turnover is balanced because in the present system of the CEMA it is no use our having a surplus; we cannot use it to liven up the economy without further constraints. And behind the prolongation of the discussions lies this endeavor to create this balance. That is also a part of the restoration of Hungary's economic balance.

[Gardai] Did they understand ths situation?

[Berecz] In my opinion they do understand it. It is a different matter that from the enterprise point of view—they are in no hurry to agree with it. [end recording]

Csehak Outlines New Ministry's Tasks

AU270751 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 22 Jan 88 p 5

[Interview with Dr Judit Csehak, minister of social affairs and health, by Ferenc L.Gazso: "More Modern Government Management—When Interests of Equal Importance Meet"—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] At its December 1987 session the National Assembly adopted the law on the ministries, and a decision was made to reorganize the government. It was the first time since 1967 that such a large-scale change had been made. At the closed session of the National Assembly, Premier Karoly Grosz said that the changes to be implemented in the ministries and in organs with a national sphere of authority aim at establishing integrated ministries that are capable of ensuring internal coordination and, at the same time, of eliminating rigid functional and sectoral divisions in economic management. The deadline is 31 March; until then, however, MAGYAR HIRLAP will continuously report on the work being done in this spirit. Our series now continues by publishing the tasks of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

[Gazso] Public opinion received the new ministry with mixed feelings. Some people welcome the fact that health affairs and social policy are finally under one organization. However, there are also voices asking whether this main authority was necessary. Was it established only because reorganization has caught up with health affairs?

[Csehak] The establishment of the new ministry is not identical with a mere reorganization of the Ministry of Health. What happened was much more significant. We are working on establishing an organization and a structure that will combine social and health tasks rationally. Economic stabilization is inconceivable without a social background that will be more balanced than it is today. So far this has been hindered by the extremely fragmented character of the organization and management of social policy. The ministries made their social tasks subordinate to their basic activities and regarded these tasks as secondary; in addition, too many people dealt with them at the local councils. It is no wonder that the processes of coordination and asserting interests were quite long and difficult, that it is barely possible to sum up the work that was done, and that decisions were implemented quite inefficiently.

[Gazso] Now, in a period of reorganization, it is a frequent cause for concern is that the winter period will be spent on "internal struggles" until everything and everybody find their place. Valuable months will be lost, because only in a later period will people deal with long-term programs.

[Csehak] We are not faced with the danger of having to look for a coat to suit the button. Following a wide-scale debate, our political leadership has defined our long-term tasks. I will mention the most important tasks: modernizing health affairs and coordinating the health protection program in society are such tasks. We already have a scientific program for reorganizing social policy up to the year 2000, and a demographic concept. It will be our task to reorganize child and youth protection. I think this is quite a large selection of tasks, particularly since we have to implement all of them at the same time, proportionally, and so that one task is not accomplished at the expense of the others.

[Gazso] This is a broad selection indeed. Only affluence is missing. How much money will you have for your activities?

[Csehak] Some 25 percent of the national budget is allocated for expenditures on social affairs and health affairs. [passage omitted]

[Gazso] I think that the present weeks are quite difficult. The situation is precarious for everybody, and everybody has a heart; these two areas confront each other, and smaller or larger prestige struggles are under way. And in the meantime, one cannot hang a note on the ministry's door, even for one day, saying that, due to reorganization, the ministry is closed.

[Csehak] The most important thing for everybody is to understand that what is under way here is the process of coordinating two interests of equal importance. This idea should be thoroughly accepted in this sector. Although this is only the first step, it is essential. This is not easy, because money is in short supply and everyone is understandably anxious, primarily about his own professional field. Rather than reconciling social policy and health affairs, our task is to stress that these two areas correlate with and depend on each other. Therefore state management should be open to and ready for continuous change. [passage omitted]

We will finish organizing the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health within the accepted deadline and prepare the most perfect organizational and operational regulations in vain if society does not support the coordination between the two, hitherto separate task areas, and identify with this coordination which is also dictated by the compelling conditions.

[Gazso] The large majority of social and health institutions are located in the provinces and controlled by the local councils. These local councils are also troubled by financial difficulties. For the time being, it seems that, wherever everything is ultimately to be decided, the two different interests are confronting each other, rather than making peace.

[Csehak] The local councils should discover as soon as possible that they should and can discover the advantages in a union between health affairs and social policy. A very great deal depends on this. We will never accomplish this by means of regulations. Moreover, I do not believe in the omnipotence of management by means of warrants, either. However, I do believe in extending the councils' sphere of authority in the social assistance given to the population. This, however, does not mean that the councils will be left on their own, as if somebody had told them: This is your new task, solve it however you can. The government has undertaken to guarantee that differences in the state of supplies to the communities and in the opportunities available to the councils will not have a detrimental effect on the people's equality of opportunity. We are now reexamining the definition of the minimal group of services that are essential for every Hungarian community. However, we should provide citizens with the possibility of satisfying any other justified need they have.

[Gazso] In the present economic situation, we have to eliminate the illusion of a state that takes care of everything. However, new resources can hardly be tapped without more open support for community and individual initiatives.

[Csehak] It is reassuring that there are such initiatives. For example, the Lehel Refrigeration Machines enterprise recently established a foundation to support its pensioners, which is a totally new solution. Anybody is able to contribute, and this does not burden the amount the enterprise allocated for social purposes. Moreover, the donor can deduct his contribution from his taxable income. Workers at Dunaujvaros established a supplementary insurance program. We should give scope to community and individual initiatives, but I am convinced that this would be necessary even if we happened to be rich. We should have real communities, communities that organize themselves. This is important, not only because of our affairs, but also because such communities are also essential to the process of democratizing society. For the time being, we have little experience in how we can contribute to these communities. The ministry regards it as one of its tasks to support the establishment of associations, clubs, and foundations by, for example, distributing samples of fundamental laws for them.

[Gazso] Is all this not accompanied by the state quietly withdrawing from those spheres in our life where it previously claimed to be the sole guardian of our prosperity?

[Csehak] There is no question of withdrawal! At most, we are talking about the fact that a shortage of money can occasionally lead to unavoidable financial regrouping. There will not be enough money for all the aims we would like to finance. At the same time, we are searching for new methods of distributing centrally supplied resources more perfectly. [passage omitted]

[Gazso] The country is undoubtedly on the verge of social reforms that cannot be postponed; and some people expect them and others do not. There is nothing worse than uncertainty. When will these plans be implemented?

[Csehak] The gradual introduction of these reforms is a part of the government's program. It would be irresponsible to predict a timetable because, for the time being, we do not know how income and employment policy will develop, either. And yet these have a decisive influence on reorganizing social security, as well as on reforming the system of pensions, or on comprehensively modernizing health affairs. I will be satisfied if the major steps are implemented in all three areas by 1990. [passage omitted]

Youth Parliament Sports Commission Session Held

AU261359 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 22 Jan 88 p 5

[Correspondent's report: "New Forum for Asserting Young People's Interests—The Youth And Sports Affairs Commission of the National Assembly Held Its First Session"]

[Excerpts] The Youth and Sports Affairs Commission of the National Assembly—which was established on the basis of a resolution adopted at the recent parliamentary session—held its first session at the Parliament on 21 January. Its agenda included a debate on the report concerning the activities of the State Office for Sports and Youth Affairs and the development of the commission's work program for 1988. Istvan Sarlos, president of the National Assembly, participated in the session.

Istvan Geczi, chairman of the new body, said in his introductory remarks that they are counting on every state and public organization to assist them in solving the difficulties of the young people and developing the sports activities. The commission will exercise its role of making suggestions, coordination and control role primarily in order to improve the education, training, and employment opportunities of young people, make it easier for them to start independent careers, and contribute to the adjustment of endangered young people.

Csaba Hamori, member of the MSZMP Politburo and first secretary of KISZ, said that he regards the new commission as a further extension of the opportunities for young people to assert their interests. The commission's goal is precisely to make young people feel more strongly that the country's affairs are their affairs. This, however, can only be accomplished if young people themselves are aware of their own difficulties and will do something about them. [passage omitted]

Gabor Deak, state secretary and chairman of the State Office for Youth and Sports Affairs, said that many people had exaggerated expectations from the establishment of the State Office for Youth and Sports Affairs, and that it is often criticized for paying more attention to

sports than to youth issues. The state secretary acknowledged that there is some truth in the latter statement, but he added by way of explanation that although his office has control over sports activities and the means for these activities, as far as young people are concerned, his staff can work for them only indirectly, in a coordinating capacity. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the role of the parliamentary commission, Istvan Sarlos drew the attention of the commission members to the fact that they should not let themselves be discouraged because their suggestions cannot be implemented in the present difficult economic conditions. It is not enough just to try to eliminate backlogs; one should also make preparations to solve foreseeable difficulties and for better times. One of the tasks of the commissions, therefore, is to call to people account for measures aimed at advancing the accomplishment of our goals. Young people can form an opinion only about things which they themselves have experienced; and if they criticize, their criticism should be well thought out. [passage omitted]

Released Convicts Face Employment Difficulties

AU261305 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 25 Jan p 3

[Eszter Legradi report: "Letters Without Answers—Work Following Release"]

[Excerpts] There were 172 crimes and 87 criminals per 10,000 inhabitants in Hungary in 1986. The number of known crimes stood at 182,000 and that of criminals stood at 93,000. Some 40,000 convicts are released annually from law enforcement institutions. Making a fresh start and rehabilitation do not depend on these ex-convicts alone. There has been a decline in employment and job opportunities. No job, and mostly no roof is awaiting the released convicts. Creating the right conditions, overcoming the difficulties and controlling their fate is not only their responsibility. [passage omitted]

At the National Law Enforcement Headquarters, Lt. Colonel Imre Fejes, head of the Education Department, says the following:

"An important task to be done during the time spent by the convicts in prison is to facilitate their readjustment following release. Indeed only one who can find work, housing, and orderly social conditions after release can find his way back into society. When a convict comes to a prison, we prepare an individual educational program for him. We examine his schooling, his occupational training, and his skills. During the time he spends in prison, we systematically prepare him for the outside world. Professional training, supplementing his schooling, and settling his outside affairs by means of letters and visits are all tasks facing us during the convicts prison term." [passage omitted]

"We have cooperation agreements with 60 enterprises"—says Mrs Onozo Margit Wenner, head of a section of the Court Main Department of the Justice Ministry—"and the Justice Ministry has signed agreements with 9 of these enterprises to facilitate the employment of released convicts. Unfortunately, one enterprise has already canceled the agreement, and others might follow its example. Ways should be found—and we have already made proposals in this respect to the State Office for Wages and Labor—to make enterprises interested in employing released convicts by tax advantages or other means. Finding housing for the released convicts is just as difficult." [passage omitted]

At present, there are 102 professional social workers in Hungary in charge of assisting released convicts, and the tasks they face are well beyond their means. In the first half of 1987, for example, they had to settle the affairs of almost 13,000 released convicts, including employment. [passage omitted]

According to Pal Matyas, head of a department of the State Office for Wages and Labor, local public utility work was organized for 900 people in the second half of 1987. There are areas where this is almost the only employment opportunity for released convicts. Many people made use of this opportunity and such work will be organized this year too. Public utility work was organized in nine counties in 1987. This year some 18 counties and 20 administrative units have already asked for such public utility jobs to be created. This also means that jobs will be organized for released convicts too. Last year, 1,200 people could have been employed in public utility work, and the 900 jobs proved to be insufficient.

Iranian Foreign Minister Visits, Holds Talks

Meets With Orzechowski

LD261834 Tehran IRNA in English
1815 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed Tehran-Warsaw relations and international issues with his Polish counterpart Marian Orzechowski in the Polish capital today.

In the meeting Velayati said exchange of visits between the two countries' officials and bilateral cooperation is essential for strengthening and expanding mutual ties. Iran-Poland cooperation in various fields is "useful" for both countries, he said.

On the Persian Gulf issues and the Iraqi-imposed war Velayati pointed out that the war was imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime and that Iranian people are merely defending themselves. "We insist on identification and punishment of the aggressor because we don't want such ugly events to recur," Velayati stressed.

Elsewhere, Velayati referred to the U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf reiterating that responsibility of maintaining security of the region rests solely with the littoral states, and that foreign interference only helps heighten tension. "The U.S. and its allies are gradually pulling out from the region since their plot backfired and they failed to achieve their goals," said Velayati.

Velayati commenting on the Palestinian uprising said decisive and firm encounter of the Palestinian people with the Zionist regime is the only way for liberation of Palestine and he felt confident Palestinian Muslims will certainly put an end to Zionist usurpation in their land if they continue their struggle.

In response Orzechowski said cooperation with Iran is of prime importance for Poland and that his country attaches particular value to the anti-imperialist policy of Iran as well as the impact and influence of the Islamic revolution around the world.

He said Persian Gulf situation has reached a point, where any moment it can become uncontrollable and turn into a tense international skirmish.

Orzechowski then referred to the planned Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and termed it as "a positive step" towards solving of the Afghan issue. "Our position regarding the Palestinian issue is also unchangeable and Poland condemns the Zionist regime," he said.

Velayati heading a delegation arrived in Warsaw Monday and was welcomed by Jan Majewski, deputy foreign minister of Poland at the airport. [sentence as received] He is also to meet with President Wojciech Jaruzelski.

Meets With Malinowski

LD261845 Tehran IRNA in English
1750 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently visiting Warsaw, met with Poland's chairman of the Sejm (Parliament) Roman Malinowski, in the Polish capital Tuesday.

Emphasised at the meeting was furthering of relations between the two countries' parliaments.

The Polish Official also extended an invitation for Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit that country.

In response, Velayati stressing on the role parliaments play in bridging the gap between the peoples and the governments termed 'useful' further contacts between the two countries' parliaments for Tehran-Warsaw ties.

Continues Talks With Officials

LD262033 Warsaw PAP in English
1935 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 26—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, now on an official visit to Poland, today had talks with Polish political and economic figures.

Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski met with Minister Velayati this morning. During Polish-Iranian plenary talks, chaired by heads of diplomacy of both countries, which started later, the sides reviewed bilateral relations.

Both sides expressed interest in maintaining political dialogue and resuming cultural and scientific cooperation in line with the implementation protocol signed last February which provides for an exchange of students and scientists and contacts between universities.

The Polish side renewed interest in establishing a faculty of Polish language and culture at the University of Tehran, and the Iranian side replied to that proposal in a friendly manner.

Both sides came out in favour of developing trade exchange and economic cooperation.

The sides reviewed the main international issues.

In this context the Iranian guest underscored the significance of Wojciech Jaruzelski's initiative to decrease armaments and increase confidence in central Europe.

Both ministers discussed regional conflicts. The Polish side stressed the necessity to put an immediate end to military operations in the Gulf and fully use U.N. Security Council's Resolution No 598, demanding an immediate halt of military operations.

The Iranian side presented its stand on the causes and the current state of war with Iraq and came out for further cooperation with the U.N. secretary general in putting an end to this conflict.

Minister Velayati called on Sejm (Polish Parliament) Speaker Roman Malinowski, who informed the guest about the structure and place of the Sejm in the Polish political system.

He also presented the main directions of the Sejm's activity in the process of reforms and socialist renewal.

Speaking about the Sejm's activeness at the international forum Malinowski informed Velayati about preparations for a first meeting of heads of parliaments from Europe, the USA, and Canada to be held here next autumn.

The guest positively referred to parliamentarian activities on the international plane. The sides found it useful to make direct contacts between parliaments of both states a part of Polish-Iranian cooperation.

Minister Velayati was accompanied by deputy to the Iranian Parliament Seyed Mohsen Mohammadi-Azar. Present was Ambassador of Iran Abol Fazl Rahnama-Hazavei.

Also today Minister Velayati laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier here.

PAP Reports on Urban Press Conference

LD261950 Warsaw PAP in English
1846 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Government Spokesman's Press Conference"—PAP headline; (By Stanislaw Filipczak and Janusz Zaleski)]

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 26—Polish visit by Iran's foreign minister, economic issues, problems of substitute military service in Poland, more about the million dollars for opposition in Poland, does discrepancy in opinions mean confidence crisis for the government, these were the main topics discussed by Polish Government Spokesman Jerzy Urban during his weekly press conference here today.

Polish Visit of Iran's Foreign Minister [subhead]

Replying to a phone-in question which had been asked even before the conference started and which dealt with the visit to Poland by Iran's Minister for Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Jerzy Urban said:

The talks focus chiefly on the development of economic and political relations between Poland and Iran. Poland wishes to develop and consolidate traditionally good relations with Iran and, similarly, with Iraq. During the talks, the Polish side has spoken with determination for putting a stop to the Iran-Iraq war in keeping with the Security Council's resolution number 598, and we have been underscoring this standpoint of ours in the talks.

Poland's Economic Situation [subhead]

Many questions asked by newsmen concerned Poland's economic situation. Here are some of Urban's replies:

It is not true that the Polish Government initially intended to compensate for price rises with a sum of 1,750 zlotys, and raised this sum more than three times when trade unions objected to the initial plans.

The government, as one can read it from the communique of the Press Office, initially proposed to directly compensate, equally to everyone, for price rises of only some products and to give everyone a sum of 1,750 zlotys. The remaining part of pay increase, on the other hand, would be related to pay policy and depend on the state of the economy, labour productivity of a given individual, etc.

Now, the change consists in the fact that 6,000 zlotys will be distributed equally to everyone, while the remaining part of pay rise, amounting to several thousand zlotys, will be closely connected not with price movements but with work results and pay policy.

The adopted principle is more conducive to flattening pays than the previous concept of smaller direct compensation which would rather favour pay differentials. Thus, this change was made to the detriment of restructuring pay systems and to the detriment of the concept of closer connections between pay and work.

As far as the non-production sector is concerned, it will also get, by analogy, this 6,000 zloty-pay increase for everyone, while the remaining pay rises, financed by the state budget, will be consistent with the rules of pay policy.

The 6,000 zloty-compensation will be given only to employees, while members of their families will get higher family benefits. The size of growth of such benefits will depend on the level of income per one member of a given family.

Prices are planned to increase by 27 per cent this year, on the average, but if one adds the effects of price rises introduced last year which affect this year's figures, prices will rise by 36 per cent. If, furthermore, one adds rises of prices for alcohol and tobacco, which, as planned, were excluded form calculations, then one gets 40-42 per cent. Such is the scale of planned inflation.

Commenting on economic situation Minister Urban said, in part:

In referendum, some 12 million citizens supported a more stringent than that of today variant of price hikes—compensated for with pay rises—on foodstuffs by 100 percent and the general index by 40 percent. [sentence as received] The outcome of the referendum was not decisive. This is why, in line with what the Government Press office announced, the general index of price increases was lowered from 40 to 27 percent (the prices of alcohol and tobacco excluding) whereas the index of price hikes on foodstuffs from 100 percent to 40 percent. This denotes a major modification of the original plans.

This is nothing like a defeat of the reform, a retreat of the reform. This signifies spreading in time some solutions envisaged by the reform.

The implementing programme of the reform comprises about 160 items or tasks. [sentence as received] This programme is a result of a deep-going discussion in which people of various outlooks and economic orientations were involved. Its trend won approval of numerous Western politicians, as well as, positive evaluations of international bodies.

At the same time, there appeared hideous duplicity of some circles in the West. The programme of reforms, along with rises of prices and wages which are its integral part, became now a target for everyday attacks by Polish-language Western radio stations, and particularly of the two American stations (the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, ed.). They take for granted that the reforms would amount to nothing and try to inject pessimism into Poles right at the moment when we are tackling putting our economic system back on its feet. Those who always tried to talk us into adopting the rules of free market and world prices are scaring us with poverty now that our aim is to base a major part of prices and wages on the rules of market game.

Thus, the West speaks to us about issues related to the reforms in two contradictory languages. In order to incite social unrest, they fight what they on the other hand praise. Their propaganda feeds itself on the sensitivity of Poles to price rises.

It is a lie that the economic reforms are restricted to but price rises and that other measures are just a propaganda wrapping for the rises, and those who claim it know it is lie.

Alternative Civic Service [subhead]

Asked about the details of the possibility, announced last week, to introduce a principle that those who do not want to serve in the army in Poland because of their convictions will be able to perform an alternative work in doubled time span, Urban said:

"It is too early to speak about details and dates. I said that the draft is analysed and not forejudged. Examined are, for instance, similar solutions for a prolonged alternative service applied in France and the FRG. A proper time must pass since the discussion on the draft to filing it with the Sejm (parliament) and passing it by the Sejm. What is shocking, on the other hand, is the reaction of those who claimed that their 'raison d'etre' was the struggle for a similar solution because conscience did not let them take arms into their hands to defend their country."

Urban also said that Western mass media reported that spokesman for the illegal movement called "Freedom and Peace" (WIP) Jacek Szymanderski came out against the new draft law on alternative civic service.

"It seems," Urban went on, "that I made opponents of military service show cards. They revealed that they do not care for a particular protection of the minority rights but aim at hitting at the country's defences and weakening Poland."

"(The country's) own army was the striving of entire generations of Poles. It (own army) is the main trait of Polish independence and its guarantor, a factor indispensable for the protection of our state organism and the country's borders," he said.

"The attitude of the illegal movement 'Freedom and Peace' towards this draft revealed its true intentions. The thing is not in anybody's conscientious objections but in political goals which are subversive towards one's own country, it is in the game played in the interest of the military grouping which is opposed to us and which keeps nuclear warheads targeted also on Poland," Urban pointed out.

"The self-unmasking of the alleged defenders of peace is, of course, a politically-instructive, interesting piece of information. The so-called 'Freedom and Peace' movement does not care either for one's freedom to decide about oneself or for peace. Yet the attitude of the 'WIP' has been of no significance for the progress of the draft which I have mentioned," stated Urban.

More on Million Dollars for Opposition in Poland [subhead]

Asked whether it was true that the million dollars granted to Polish opposition by the U.S. Congress had been earmarked for establishment of a health fund, Urban said, i.a.:

The U.S. Congress earmarked a million dollars from the American Government budget for former leaders of Solidarnosc in Poland. After we had expressed an opinion that it explained from whom they were receiving their pay-checks and whose agents they were, some of the one-time leaders of the union announced that they

assigned the money to health protection then. Others objected to the donation, they did not want to give up the dollars. And an argument over the dollars started.

According to some sources, the million dollars was transferred to the international rescue committee's account for a purchase of ambulances, medical equipment and medications for Poland.

Out of her state budget Poland earmarks annually several hundred million U.S. dollars for imports of medical stuffs. But even the one extra million will be accepted by the Polish people with gratitude.

We have received information from Washington that the donation is conditional on treating Solidarnosc members for that money. No doctor in Poland has ever asked, is asking, and will ask he will not those seeking medical aid about their union affiliation. [sentence as received] A supposition like this is absurd.

There emerged an initiative to establish a fund which would make with the American million dollars purchases of medications and equipment and which would subsequently distribute them.

We assume that the point is really to develop the possibility of curing serious human ailments and not to stage political demonstrations, or furbish ambulances with shields and slogans. Polish state authorities are willing to consider the concept of aiding a joint fund with foreign currency. We could, out of our foreign currency reserve, hand over several times more than just a million U.S. dollars.

The thing is to jointly decide upon expenditure so that foreign currency funds serve those most ill and most needing.

Social Confidence in Government [Subhead]

It is true that various segments of the government policy are criticised by the trade union, at the Sejm, by the socio-economic council, and other institutions, Urban told the conference. He added:

"This signifies a huge progress in developing democratic relations, progress in voicing contradictory opinions and conflicting interests. Obviously, the government would be content if society had more trust in the efficacy of the reform. Polls reveal that this trust is very low, this is one of those factors which badly hamper the implementation of radical reforms. Such is the reality and such is the evaluation of the reforms themselves. I think that trust in the government, the authorities will start to grow only when at least a part of society feels tangible benefits of changing the way of management."

S.A.S. I.C. and International Terrorism [subhead]

Polish authorities are not aware of any connections between the S.A.S. International Company, a foreign enterpise which used to operate in Poland for some 4 years, and Abu Nidal's group, or any other terrorist groups whatsoever, said Urban replying to another question.

"The S.A.S. Company was closed down under the August 3, 1987, decision of Polish authorities. Both foreign nationals who managed the company left Poland on January 14 this year having liquidated their business. They were not expelled, Urban stressed, they just left Poland.

"I would not prophesy stable operation in Poland of companies that could be accused, even by a fraction of world public opinion, of connections with terrorist groups, the government spokesman went on. We count on completely different enterprises."

Asked to take a stand with regard to the U.S. Department of State report which says that Abu Nidal stayed in Poland between 1983 and 1985, when the S.A.S. was being formed that is, Urban said:

"If the Department of State is in possession of evidence that one of foreign nationals staying in Poland is on the wrong side of the law it should have let Polish authorities know, or at least presented appropriate evidence post factum instead of arguing with Polish authorities by means of press leaks. I do not find such conduct fair.

"Polish authorities have no knowledge of Abu Nidal's ever staying in Poland, other than from Western press which brings most sensational reports. All I can do is to stress it most strongly, the government spokesman said, that Polish authorities are not aware of the above named person's stay in Poland."

Answering other questions, Urban said:

Andrzej Kolodziej, one of the leaders of a grouping appearing under the name of 'Fighting Solidarnosc' was arrested. He is suspected of complicity in smuggling from Sweden to Poland things which are not allowed to be brought into this country or need special permission. He is also charged with using fake documents.

The current Polish-Iranian talks will probably also touch on the case of Father Skrucinski who was sentenced to three years in prison in Iran on charges of spying. The Polish side seeks a humanitarian treatment to be applied to the Polish priest. Recently, representatives of the Polish Embassy there have seen him.

Agreement Signed With Society, USSR Troops

LD261742 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1600 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] This year's cooperation program between the Main Board of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society and the Command of the Northern Group of Soviet Army

Troops has been signed in Warsaw. It provides not only for joint celebration of anniversaries linked with the history of the friendly countries, but also an exchange of information. It also seeks to popularize the scientific, technical, and cultural achievements of the Polish and Soviets.

CSCE Delegate Proposes Work 'Contacts'

LD262210 Warsaw PAP in English
2137 GMT 26 Jan 88

[By PAP special correspondent Andrzej Rayzacher]

[Text] Vienna, Jan. 26—Heads of delegations for the 35-nation Vienna-86 CSCE review meeting, under way here for 14 months now, held an informal meeting today.

Poland's delegate Wlodzimierz Konarski suggested that the heads of particular delegations should establish more working-style contacts, thus creating a platform for delegations concerned on which to try and effectively solve the most difficult problems emerging throughout the debate.

Lobby talks indicated today that the Polish proposal has been accepted. The delegation heads are scheduled to hold their first meeting next week to discuss cooperation in humanitarian issues.

Malinowski Meets Turkish Newspaper Reporter

LD261928 Warsaw PAP in English
1801 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Warsaw, Jan 26—Chairman of the United Peasanty Party CC, Speaker of the Sejm (Polish Parliament) Roman Malinowski received here today Candar Cengiz, correspondent of the largest Turkish daily HURRIYET.

PZPR Central Committee Politburo Meets

LD262108 Warsaw Television Service in Polish
1800 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Implementation of the second stage of economic reform was discussed at a meeting of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo. It was assessed that the tasks which have been carried out by the government, as anticipated in the program presented to the Sejm, were implemented in accordance with the assumed aims and schedule. The decisive will for complete and consistent implementation of the whole program was expressed, as was the need for intensification and acceleration of some actions. The Politburo continued its assessment of the achievements of Polish foreign policy and economic cooperation with other countries. This year's tasks were examined.

December Implementation of Economic Reform

AU270755 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
21 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] PAP—The Council of Ministers Committee for the Economic Reform reports: December 1987 was the third month of the realization of the tasks of the implementation program of the second stage of the economic reform. The following tasks were accomplished in line with the monthly schedule:

1. The principles of supplying the economy with materials were improved by a large-scale reduction of the compulsory intermediate links in the supply system. (The government's decree no. 124 on the supplies of materials was modified and published in the REFORMA GOSPODARCZA supplement on 17 December 1987.)

2. Centrally financed imports were reduced and the self-financing of enterprises in convertible currencies was extended. These measures were included in the 1988 Central Annual Plan. The program for further reducing central imports and extending self-financing will be completed by May 1988.

3. A draft resolution was worked out on the development of the economic activities by private agents, who will be able to take over any units not employing over 50 persons. This resolution will be issued by the Council of Ministers. Rules governing records and documentation will also be simplified. 4. A draft resolution on bonds provides among other things for sales of bonds to individuals. The government will examine this resolution in March 1988.

5. Accounts and operations relating to convertible currency allowances were streamlined.

6. Draft proposals to modify the principles of the wage systems in enterprises were devised with a view to relating more closely wages to the fiscal situation in enterprises. The OPZZ approved of these proposals.

7. Domestic trade enterprises dealing with production equipment will no longer be supervised by their founding bodies. The Ministry of Domestic Trade is their new founding body.

8. The minister of cooperation with foreign countries was instructed to issue in January 1988 a decree on licensing imports and exports. Skeleton import and export permits will be introduced and goods not requiring such permits will be listed.

9. Principles in line with which specialized banks and fiscal institutions can be set up to finance innovations were drafted. These principles should be introduced in October 1988.

10. Proposals for activities to accelerate agrarian changes in private farming were drafted. Among other things, the amalgamation of lands, trade in farming property, and loans to promote the production of farm produce will be facilitated.

11. Draft modifications to the law of 23 April 1986 on companies with foreign capital were devised. The main tenor of these modifications is to improve the conditions for foreign investments in Poland. After consultations with ministers concerned, the modifications will be submitted to the government by June 1988.

12. Draft modifications to the law of 6 July 1982 on small-production activities by foreign nationals were devised. These modifications will greatly simplify the procedures for issuing permits for activities by heirs of these nationals and will create incentives for foreigners to invest convertible currencies in Poland. These modifications are to be submitted to the government next June.

13. Changes to the present law on building were worked out. They provide for establishing a state institution for building supervision. These changes will be the basis of a new "Building Law." It is expected that a draft of this proposed law will be submitted to the government in August 1988.

14. Labor law changes were worked out with a view to raising the effectiveness of work, promoting rational employment, and boosting job activity. These changes were submitted to the OPZZ for opinion.

15. It was decided to introduce at the beginning of January certain concessions to facilitate the sales by socialized economy units of the surpluses of rationed raw and other materials. Other concessions will be introduced in the course of 1988.

16. A draft government decree was devised to change the general conditions of investment realization. The draft, which was coordinated by the Legal Commission and the Legal Bureau of the Office of the Council of Ministers, has been submitted for coordination to the ministries concerned. The proposed changes are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of accounts relating to building and assembly work and at creating incentives that ensure the scheduled realization of investment tasks. This draft decree is scheduled to be submitted to the government in September 1988.

17. Draft solutions were devised to encourage the development of cottage production by increasing economic incentives for the sponsors and executors of such production. The necessary bill will be submitted to the government in February 1988.

As a result of work on modifications to the implementation program for the second stage of the economic reform—these modifications are connected with the Sejm evaluation of the November referendum— other tasks planned to be realized in December were rescheduled for January and other months of 1988.

The realization of these tasks will be accounted for in line with new modified schedule. The work of implementing all these tasks continues and is at a much advanced stage.

Glowczyk Chairs Meeting on Mass Media

LD252102 Warsaw PAP in English
2006 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 25—The PUWP CC Commission for Propaganda met today to discuss the role of mass media in conditions of socialist pluralism and the growing importance of public opinion against the resolutions of the 6th PUWP CC plenary meeting and conclusions ensuing from the referendum.

In the course of the discussion, commission members stressed that the policy of reforms, renewal and national agreement mapped out by the 9th and 10th PUWP Congresses requires an improvement of methods and ways of work from the entire system of propaganda. They also stressed that the new information policy's characteristics is its openness.

The meeting was chaired by Head of the commission, Political Bureau member, PUWP CC Secretary Jan Glowczyk.

New Defense League Chairman Named

LD261955 Warsaw Television Service in Polish
1830 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] General [General Broni] Tadeusz Tuczapski has become the new chairman of the main board of the League of National Defense, as decided by the eighth plenum of the main board of this organization.

PEC, State Council Approves Amnesty

AU261818 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1750 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Joint Meeting of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP and of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/1/1988—Tuesday, 26 January, a joint meeting of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP and of the State Council was held under the chairmanship of RCP General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

During the meeting Nicolae Ceausescu proposed the endorsement of measures to amnesty certain crimes and reduce some punishments. Thus the party general secretary suggested amnesty for all the crimes which called for up to ten years in prison, and reduction by half of those calling for more than 10 years, as well as changing the death sentences pronounced by the courts of justice into 20 years in prison.

The Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP and the State Council unanimously approved these proposals.

Decree Published

AU262052 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 2031 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Decree of the State Council"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/1/1988—By decree of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania, signed by President Nicolae Ceausescu, amnesty is granted to all the crimes that called for up ten years in prison, included; prison terms higher than 10 years, granted by the courts of justice, are reduced by half; death penalties pronounced by the courts of justice are switched to 20 years in prison. [sentence as received]

The decree establishes measures to ensure the employment of the people benefitting by these provisions and their integration in the working collectives where they are distributed.

Allegations of Church Demolition Refuted

AU261217 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1143 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Care For the Conservation and Restoration of Places of Worship and Historical Monuments"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/1/1988—For a good time now, speculations have insistently been made in a certain western press on the situation of the places of worship in Bucharest—the capital of Romania which is known to undergo an extensive redevelopment and modernization process.

The latest in the series of "sensational" news items is on an alleged project to demolish the Patriarchal Palace and the Cathedral of the Patriarchate of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Bucharest, and to move the Patriarchal See out of Bucharest to the city of Iasi, in northeast Romania.

In a talk with a Romanian news agency—AGERPRES—editor, the patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Teoctist, assessed the rumours as groundless and termed them a provocative act of ill-will.

Bishop Nifon Ploiesteanul, a patriarchal vicar and secretary of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, strongly denied all speculations on both the alleged demolition of the Patriarchal Palace and the Cathedral of the Patriarchate of the Romanian Orthodox Church, and on the movement of the Patriarchal See out of Bucharest. He also rejected as malevolent the statements on the alleged intention to demolish such churches in Bucharest as the Church in Parcul Domeniilor (Casin Monastery). Since 1980 alone, he specified, the Patriarchate has spent more than 145 million lei on the restoration of over 500 churches that are historical monuments. Over 1975-1986, 308 Orthodox churches were built or rebuilt in Romania. Eight of them were in the capital of the country (the churches Prelungirea Ghencea, Militari III, Sfintu Anton—Colentina, Sfintu Nicolae—Brosteni, Ion Creanga—Colentina, Sfintu Gheorghe-Nou, Leordeni, Dumitrana).

To all that work, the Romanian state contributed more than 170 million lei. It cost the Romanian state alone upwards of 30 million lei to move from their original location a number of churches that were historical monuments in the capital of the country (Schitu Maicilor, Olari, Sfintu Ilie—Rahova, the Synod Palace at Antim Monastery, Mihai Voda, Sfintu Gheorghe—Capra, Sfintu Ioan—Piata, the Cuibul cu Barza Church).

As a matter of fact, any visitor of good faith can easily see that in Bucharest Orthodox believers can attend the religious service held by 400 priests in 276 churches. These figures speak for the care of Romania's lay and religious authorities for the restoration and conservation of the places of worship that are national historical and architectural monuments, and shed light on the hypocritical and tendentious character of the "concern" of certain western circles for these monuments.

Further Reportage on Ceausescu's Birthday

Address on 70th Birthday

AU260727 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 0834 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Message from "the RCP Central Committee, the State Council and the Government of the SR of Romania, the Grand National Assembly, and the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front" to RCP Secretary General Nicolae Ceausescu, read by Constantin Dascalescu, member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and Prime Minister of the Government of the SR of Romania, at the solemn jubilee session devoted to Ceausescu's 70th birthday and more than 55 years of revolutionary activity, in Bucharest on 25 January; live]

[Text] (?Much) beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu: On

the 70th anniversary of your birthday and more than 55 years of heroic revolutionary activity, we wish to extend to you—from the bottom of our hearts and in full unity of thought and idea with the whole people and Party—warmest congratulations and wishes for health and happiness, for many fruitful years full of great fulfillments and achievements, and for boundless power in work, so as to always lead us (?toward the future) with the same revolutionary clear-sightedness and (?self-denial), toward new and great victories and the fulfillment of the socialist and communist destiny of our beloved fatherland. [cheers, chants]

On this anniversary day of bright and enthusiastic national festivity, we extend to you our ardent wishes and the choicest sentiments of profound love, regard, and gratitude we nurture for you, like all the country's sons, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, [words indistinct] fiery patriot and consistent revolutionary, and brilliant thinker and politician of broad international resonance, who masterfully embodies the Romanian people's high virtues and ideals for equity, justice, progress, prosperity, social freedom, and national independence. You are the brilliant leader of our unswerving march forward toward mankind's golden dream, communism. [cheers, chants]

[Passage indistinct] the revolutionary changing of Romanian society and the construction of a new system, based on full social equality and equity and the people's sacred right to freely mold their own socialist and communist destiny. [cheers, chants]

Devoted, body and soul, to our forefathers' land, dignified continuer of our great forefathers, and (?firm) and fearless communist militant, with a rare capacity for anticipating and understanding the imperative requirements of the times, you have asserted yourself, from the beginning of your revolutionary activity, through the steadfastness, courage, and dignity with which you faced the persecution and oppression of the bourgeois-landlord system and the rigors of its hideous camps and prisons in the harsh, underground years. The crushing charges you made against the accusers, oppressors, and exploiters, and the resolute actions you undertook against fascism and the war will always remain for us and the future generations as proofs of most fiery and eloquent communist daring. [applause]

At all great revolutionary moments—in preparing, organizing, and ensuring the victory of the 23 August 1944 revolution for social and national liberation, bringing about Romania's exit from the unjust war launched by Hitlerite Germany, ensuring our country's participation with all its forces in the great battles to completely and finally crush fascism, and promoting deep-going revolutionary changes at that time, you brilliantly asserted your high qualities as a revolutionary Communist Party militant, who has always known how to place [words indistinct] the fatherland's independence, sovereignty, and liberty above everything else. [cheers, chants]

After the victory of the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution for social and national liberation, your huge revolutionary activity was reflected—in a context of full historic continuity—in the battles waged by the broad masses, led by the Party, to defeat the reactionary forces and win political and economic power, in the entire work of national economic recovery and reconstruction, in the country's democratization, and in organizing Romanian society on socialist bases.

Your self-denial, your devotion to the ideals of socialism, and your clear-sighted thinking and boundless power in work—characteristic features that have asserted themselves from the beginning of your revolutionary activity—as well as your vast experience as a front-ranking Party militant for many years have been fully crowned in the period inaugurated by the Ninth Party Congress, when, through the unanimous will of the entire nation, the historic forum of Communists elected you to the supreme position as party secretary general. [cheers, chants]

This unanimous national option, followed by your election as Romania's first president, highlights the boundless love nurtured for you by the entire nation as well as the people's limitless trust in their great son's capacity to lead them for years and decades along the road of great achievements, toward ever-victorious communism. On this anniversary it is again the duty of our conscience to emphasize that your strong personality, your farsighted thinking and revolutionary action, and the renewing spirit you have instilled in our fatherland's socioeconomic life after the Ninth Party Congress have left their full mark on the dynamic and profoundly innovative course of the entire socialist construction in our fatherland. [applause]

Bold promoter of what is new and of original theoretical and practical approaches, who creatively applies the overall truths of scientific-socialism and dialectical and historical materialism to the concrete realities prevailing in our country, you rethought—with great scientific vigor and an all-encompassing revolutionary vision—the entire strategy for building the new society. You also discarded preconceived ideas and theses that did not fit Romania's realities and put to good use the Party's ability to establish appropriate targets for action, in keeping with each historical stage and with the people's creative potential. On this basis, we drafted profoundly realistic and mobilizing programs for the fatherland's socioeconomic development. These programs ensured high economic growth rates, created a strong and modern technical-material base, connected the entire territory of the fatherland to pulsating and dynamic economic life, and promoted the continuous flourishing of science, education, and culture as the most significant elements of the entire country's comprehensive progress.

Our whole Party and nation value your decisive role in improving the organization and management of all socioeconomic spheres and in setting up a broad and

all-encompassing democratic system—one of a kind—as well as an authentic revolutionary workers democracy which ensures the full implementation of the basic principle of building socialism with the people and for the people. [cheers, chants]

Much beloved and esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu: By brilliantly placing your entire activity among the strivings of the great heroes of our nation—who, with love and self-denial, have placed their deeds of work and valor at the foundations of the country's development—you inaugurated a rich period of unequalled achievements in the millenia-old history of the Romanian people. Representing a distinct stage of the socialist revolution and construction in our fatherland, the almost 23 years since the Ninth Party Congress constitute the great Nicolae Ceausescu era, which is extremely (?rich) in revolutionary achievements, a period when Romania has experienced its strongest socioeconomic development. [cheers, chants]

Comrade Secretary General: The Communists and all the people owe you the farsighted concept on the Party's place and role in society as the nucleus and vital center of the nation around which the entire society revolves. The Party has fulfilled and continues to honorably fulfill the historic mission as the leading political force of the entire nation along the new road of socialism and communism. With your brilliant capacity for analysis and synthesis, so characteristic of you and [word indistinct] all creative energies of the people, you formulated the highly topical and important and profoundly scientific and innovative thesis concerning the continuity of the revolutionary process and raising the revolutionary spirit of all Party bodies and organizations and all Communists to higher qualitative levels.

For us, your fruitful and rich theoretical and practical activity devoted to further strengthening the Party's leading role in life and society represents a greatly mobilizing example in firmly and constantly instilling a revolutionary spirit in day-to-day work, cultivating a spirit of communist responsibility and Party discipline, and promoting criticism and self-criticism, so as to commendably fulfill the tasks entrusted to us and serve, in our entire activity, the people, the cause of socialism, and Romania's independence and sovereignty. [cheers, chants]

We are all proud that the RCP, which is wisely and clear-sightedly led by you, today presents itself as a strong, vigorous, and young party, which is surrounded by the esteem and regard of the entire nation and followed, with unabated trust, by all working people. This is a party which has honorably fulfilled and continues to fulfill the historic mission if has assumed concerning the people, namely, to unswervingly lead them to the brightest peaks of socialism and communism. [cheers, chants]

Much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu: Our Party and state highly value your exceptional role in channeling the energies and creative abilities of the entire nation and the country's material and human resources toward strongly increasing the forces of production, intensively developing industry and the agricultural and all national economic branches, and further improving social relations, which are decisive elements of Romania's comprehensive progress and unswerving march forward along the road of socialism and communism.

In your laborious activity, you have asserted yourself as an untiring researcher of socioeconomic phenomena and processes, and as an inspired initiator of practical solutions that are essential for the country's socioeconomic development and for the construction of the new system in our fatherland. Your vast and prodigious theoretical work—characteristic of a most profound and magnificent thinker who is well familiar with the patrimony of revolutionary experience and is open to all that is new and innovative—has led to the assertion of a superior vision on the overall process of building the socialist society and has armed our Party with a [word indistinct] of wide scope and with valuable solutions on the dynamics of the revolutionary process. On this basis, you substantiated daring strategies for socioeconomic development, in full accordance with the nation's boundless energy and current potential, with the country's large material resources, and with the objective prerequisites of each historical moment.

In choosing Romania's road toward progress, you asserted your brilliant capacity to understand the requirements and tasks of each stage, by working out and emphasizing the directions, ways, and means of Romania's firm transition from the stage of a developing country to that of a socialist country with medium-level economic development and later, in the light of provisions included in the Party program, to the stage of an advanced country from all viewpoints, in which the communist principles of work and life can fully assert themselves.

Great, principled and practical importance devolved on your comprehensive, original, and profoundly revolutionary outlook about qualitative changes in the national economy, about the development and modernization of the forces of production and their rational and harmonious distribution throughout the country, and about the creation of a strong technical and material base, which are decisive elements of ensuring the steady progress of our entire practice.

On the basis of your recommendations and orientations, we worked out all-encompassing programs for the organization, modernization, and intensive development of industry by introducing modern technologies and dynamic production rates, continuously raising labor productivity, and increasing product quality and economic efficiency in all spheres. On the basis of your concept, the industrialization process in our country is oriented firmly today toward developing highly technological branches and subbranches, which ensure a highly

efficient use of raw materials, energy resources, and social labor, and an ever higher level of competitiveness of Romanian produce on foreign markets.

Being a profound expert in our country's agrarian realities, you creatively rethought the place of agriculture in the overall process of social development by strongly emphasizing the important role of agriculture in the national economic complex. It is to your great credit, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, to have elaborated the concept of the new agrarian revolution—a broad program of action on the basis of which we firmly proceeded to consistently implement the national program to change nature, the Romanian village, and the peasantry's very way of working, living, and thinking. Being primarily geared toward obtaining ever larger agricultural yields, unconceivable in the past, our socialist agriculture strongly asserts itself today, together with industry, as a decisive element of continuously developing the fatherland and raising the people's well-being. [cheers, chants]

It is to your incontestable credit, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, to have realistically substantiated and convincingly demonstrated the objective requirement for a high rate of accumulation in our country, as a major (?long-term) political and social option bearing great responsibility for the destiny of the fatherland and the whole nation. Life and realities fully confirmed the correctness of this option. We unanimously value your clear-sighted thinking, which encompasses our overall long-term socioeconomic realities and clearly emphasizes the decisive role of socialist ownership of the means of production. This is a basic and decisive concept for rallying the masses of working people and ensuring their broad and conscious participation—in their capacity as owners, producers, and consumers of everything achieved in our country—in the entire effort to increase the country's socioeconomic might, to build the new society, and generally improve the material and intellectual standard of living of the people.

Brilliant strategist of the development of Romanian science and education, you worked out and implemented—in keeping with our society's objective requirements for progress—the highly significant idea according to which the development and modernization of the forces of production, under conditions of a broad and complex scientific-technical revolution at world level, can only be possible by closely applying the latest and most advanced achievements of science, technology, and overall human knowledge. Proceeding from this objective prerequisite, in the first years after the Ninth Party Congress, you laid the foundation of a realistic strategy for increasing the national research potential. You took most consistent steps to place Romanian science on a modern footing and turn it into a strong material production force.

You also played the decisive role in working out the revolutionary concept which led strong links between education and production and research, the organic integration of the school in the country's socioeconomic life, and the creation of strong premises for shaping and educating the young generation in the spirit of love for work, fatherland, Party, and people and in the spirit of patriotism and revolutionary responsibility for the overall interests of our fatherland and of socialism and peace in the world. [cheers, chants]

On this anniversary, we would like to stress with profound satisfaction that the strong development of national research and education in the last 20 years, their broad involvement and decisive contribution to resolving certain priority and basic problems of the country's socioeconomic development, and the ever greater prestige enjoyed today by Romanian science and education are indissolubly linked with your work and the work of Comrade Elena Ceausescu, eminent politician and scientist of world renown. On this great celebration, we again express to her all our gratitude and regard for the very significant contribution she makes to implementing the party-state policy of ensuring the overall progress of our society. [cheers, chants]

We highly and greatly appreciate your particular concern, much esteemed Comrade Secretary General, with constantly perfecting the relations of production and social relations—an original scientific concept on the ever higher role played by the state in the current stage in improving its functions in the organization and management of the entire society on the basis of a uniform national plan of socioeconomic development. The whole Party and people highly value your outstanding activity devoted to developing the (?new features) or our socialist nation and strengthening the unity of all the people around the Party, as one of the decisive elements of the victory of socialism and communism in Romania. At the same time, there is unanimous gratitude for the correct and profoundly creative way in which one has ensured the harmonious and balanced development of all the localities and counties of our fatherland and thus created prerequisites for full and real equality among all working people, regardless of nationality, and for the flourishing of brotherhood, solidarity, and cooperation among all sons of the fatherland.

Promoter of a concept of utmost theoretical and practical importance, according to which socialism and democracy are inseparable, you, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, have initiated and led a wide-ranging and complex process of creating a broad and unique framework of revolutionary workers democracy in our country. The system of our revolutionary workers democracy, which has been constantly improved over the past 20 years, provides a framework for the efficient and broad participation of the workers class, peasantry, intelligentsia, and all the people in working out, adopting, and implementing decisions and in running all spheres of social activity. [cheers, chants]

It is to your outstanding credit that—on the basis of a thorough examination of objective laws and a direct knowledge of Romanian realities—you have established

higher forms for scientifically organizing and running all sectors of activity and society as a whole and have given a profoundly dynamic character to the uniform national plan, by increasing its role as the main instrument for mobilizing and guiding all the people's efforts in the clear direction of ensuring the steady progress of the entire society and raising the people's standards of living. Proceeding from an examination of the complex problems of organizing and running the socioeconomic development and from the practice of building the new society in our country, you have promoted, substantiated, and worked out the profoundly innovating principles of self-management and economic-financial self-administration and of the new economic-financial mechanism, which ensures the highly efficient administration of the material and financial resources of our society, and enhances the working people's responsibility and participation in increasing the socialist wealth and socioeconomic strength of the fatherland. [cheers, chants]

On this festive day, we are happy to emphasize your constant concern with ensuring the full assertion of man in our society, developing his socialist awareness, and arming him with the advanced materialistic-dialectical concept about life and society. In this respect, we value the great importance you attach to the ideological and political-educational activity of fashioning the new and advanced man of our society, cultivating in our people lasting and noble sentiments of patriotism, love and responsibility for the country and Party, and promoting the principles of socialist ethics and equity in the public life and in relations among people. [cheers, chants]

[Passage indistinct] We assure you, much esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu that all our people are determined to unflinchingly implement the Party policy and to work with all their energy, closely united around you, in order to implement in an exemplary way your guidelines and recommendations on ensuring the socioeconomic development of the country and on achieving a new quality of work and life for all our nation. [applause]

Much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu: Your brilliant contribution to establishing and implementing the whole strategy of the development of our homeland and the Party and state domestic and foreign policy is organically combined with the policy promoted by the RCP and Socialist Romania in the international arena to fulfill the ideals of peace and cooperation of the Romanian people and of all nations. Under the decisive impetus of your thinking and activity, Romania has constantly expanded its relations with all countries and has continuously increased its active participation in international life, and made efforts to seek constructive solutions to the great and complex problems of our times. The defining characteristics of your way of thinking and working, your boldness, the regenerating nature of the ideas and concepts you promote, and the profound humanism and the great responsibility you show for the destiny of the whole of mankind are clearly reflected in everything Romania has been doing and is doing in the international arena. Your great work in the international arena to fulfill the aspirations of all nations to live in peace, security, and cooperation is unanimously appreciated. Much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, it is to your great credit that you formulated the outstanding important thesis according to which the fundamental problem of our time is to halt the arms race, pass on to disarmament—primarily nuclear disarmament—and defend the fundamental right of all nations and peoples to life, peace, and a free and dignified existence. [cheers, chants]

Your proposals, initiatives, and actions to bring about disarmament, eliminate the nuclear danger, halt nuclear tests and the militarization of outer space, substantially reduce conventional weapons, and achieve a military balance at the lowest possible level [word indistinct] have enjoyed a great international response and are widely appreciated and endorsed by international public opinion. Romania's initiatives and efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in Europe and to achieve a united Europe, free of weapons and wars, a Europe of peace, understanding, and peaceful cooperation among nations are also highly regarded. Your concepts on seeking peaceful, negotiated solutions to all interstate conflicts, on eliminating underdevelopment, establishing a new international economic order, and building a better and more just world, in which every people and nation can develop freely in accordance with their own wishes and aspirations, without any outside interference are permeated by a profound humanism.

[Passage indistinct] of people and progressive forces everywhere, to fulfill mankind's supreme goals for peace and progress. In the spirit of this concept, our Party works firmly to continuously strengthen cooperation and solidarity among all the communist and workers parties, socialist and social democratic parties, national liberation movements, democratic parties in the newly independent countries, and other political, democratic, and antiwar groups and forces, their unity representing a major prerequisite of our times. Starting from the fundamental thesis that in order to correctly fulfill their historic mission as communist and workers parties, they must be based on the respect for the independence of each party and of its inalienable right to substantiate its own political line in accordance with the concrete conditions prevailing in the respective country, you have voiced the determination to work consistently in order to develop relations with the communist and workers parties in a new type of unity, as a major requirement for the success of the joint struggle to establish a lasting climate of understanding, cooperation, security, and peace in the word. As a result of all these things the contemporary world recognizes you as an outstanding figure of the international communist and workers movement and as a firm and tireless promoter of peace, understanding, and cooperation among nations. [cheers, chants]

Much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu: Today the Party and our whole nation are celebrating in your person the daring hero and revolutionary, who for more than half a century has devoted his life and all his energy to faithfully serving the Romanian people and their supreme interests, and to building the new system on the soil of our homeland. [applause]

For all that you have done and are doing to ensure the well-being and happiness of our whole nation, the greatness of our free and sovereign nation, and the glory and prosperity of the Communist Party, our whole nation nurture for you, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the warmest feelings of respect, love, appreciation, and gratitude and they express their ardent wish to have you always at the helm of the Party and state, as the surest guarantee for accomplishing our great ideals, our aspirations for progress and well-being, and for raising Romania to the highest peaks of socialist and communist civilization. [applause]

On this moving anniversary, we pay you our enthusiastic homage and the homage of the whole Party and people by pledging to you, the symbol and leader of our socialist revolution, to work with self-denial and devotion in order to implement the domestic and foreign policy of our Party and country and ensure that the continuous flourishing and development of our dear homeland, the SR of Romania, may continuously develop and flourish. [cheers, chants]

Inspired by the bold and thoroughly scientific ideas, thesis, and orientation included in the masterly report you presented to the Party National Conference, we will work with high communist commitment and in a revolutionary spirit to fulfill in an exemplary way the great mission entrusted to us by the Party and the important plans and programs for the continuous development of our homeland. We will do all we can so that this year we obtain the best results of the current 5-year plan period, thus ensuring the unflinching implementation of the historic decisions of the 13th RCP Congress on the firm progress of our homeland on the path of the comprehensively developed socialist society toward the bright peaks of communist civilization. [applause]

At this celebration, expressing the most ardent thoughts and feelings of the Communists and of all the working people in our homeland, we once again extend to you, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, warmest wishes for good health and a long life, for the well-being and happiness of the Romanian people and for the glory and prosperity of Socialist Romania. [cheers and chants]

We all extend to you wishes for everlasting youth, that you may always work at the helm of our Party and state, with inexhaustible creative energy, in order to complete the great historical work you are carrying out with so much brilliance together with the people and for the people who elected you to lead their destinies toward communism.

We wish you long and happy years, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu! [cheers and chants]

We wish you long and happy years, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu together with the esteemed Comrade Elena Ceausescu and with all those who are dear and close to you. On this anniversary we extend to you heartfelt wishes for "many happy returns." [applause]

The RCP Central Committee, the State Council, the Government of the SR of Romania, the Grand National Assembly, and the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front.

Ceausescu Attends Exhibition

AU261450 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1413 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/01/1988—Tuesday, 26 January, the general secretary, president of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu attended the opening festivity of a homage-paying exhibition arranged on the birthday and anniversary of over 55 years of revolutionary activity of the RCP and Romanian state leader.

Attending the festivity were by full and alternate members of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, secretaries of the Party's Central Committee, members of the CC of the RCP and of the government, representatives of mass and public organizations.

The exhibition underlines the revolutionary, patriotic activity of President Nicolae Ceausescu, the great achievements of the epoch inaugurated by the Ninth RCP Congress, the contribution of the party general secretary to the working out and implementation of the home and foreign policy of the RCP and the Romanian state, to the development of the revolutionary theory and practice.

Documents of the time, photographs illustrate the fact that Nicolae Ceausescu has devoted his entire life to the people's fight against social oppression and exploitation, against fascism and war, for the cause of socialism and communism, of the country's independence and sovereignty. Other documents highlight his participation in the preparation and carrying through of the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution of social and national liberation of August 1944. On display are images from the Ninth RCP Congress, photagraphs reflecting the modernization of the Romanian industry and agriculture, of scientific research, proofs of the numerous meetings President Nicolae Ceausescu had with working people of the country's counties. Since 1965, the RCP and Romanian state leader has paid more than 700

working visits to all counties and in Bucharest, met with experts and managerial staff of 2,500 production, socio-cultural, learning and scientific research units throughout the country.

The exhibition also outlines the development prospects of Socialist Romania, the future envisaged in the RCP programme, in the resolutions of the Thirteenth RCP Congress and the National Conference of the party, which underlie Romania's firm advance to socialism and communism.

President Nicolae Ceausescu's foreign policy actions and initiatives, Romania's active presence in the international arena, the broad development of dialogue with all the nations of the world and the contribution made to the settlement of all major issues of the contemporary world are reflected by documents and photographs on display.

Special place is held by works of President Nicolae Ceausescu's philosophical thought, put out by Romanian publishing houses, as well as by volumes devoted to the personality of the Romanian party and state leader brought out abroad.

Ceausescu Attends Reception

AU261822 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1728 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Reception in Honour of President Nicolae Ceausescu—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 26/1/1988—On January 26, the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, the State Council and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania gave a reception in honour of Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania on his 70th birthday and the anniversary of more than 55 years of revolutionary activity.

Upon arrival at the exhibitional complex in the Scinteia Square, President Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu were extended a warm reception.

President Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu warmly answered the friendly shows of the people gathered on the occasion.

The reception was attended by full and alternate members of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, secretaries of the Party Central Committee, members of the CC of the RCP, of the State Council and of the government, by the county delegations that were present at the homage-paying solemn meeting, by party members since the years of underground activity, by executives of central institutions and of mass and public organizations, by representatives of all the bodies of revolutionary worker democracy, of the scientific and cultural life.

Taking the floor, Constantin Dascalescu, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, prime minister, outlined the Romanian president's whole life and revolutionary activity devoted with passion and devotion to the people's foremost interests.

To us all, the speaker added, your illustrious personality is a symbol of ardent patriotism, of uninterrupted revolutionary activity, carried on with intelligence and realism, of self-denying work dedicated to the homeland and to the party, to the loftiest of all human aspirations—socialism, peace, national independence, social justice and freedom. He expressed pride in and admiration for the determination and revolutionary enthusiasm, boldness and dynamism with which Nicolae Ceausescu has led the party and the people, for his great love for the people and, voicing the whole country's feelings, he wished him long life, everlasting power of work and good health, for Socialist Romania's eternal glory.

Taking the floor next was Neagu Andrei, party member since the years of underground activity, who said: We the party members who joined the party ever since the years of underground activity, of the fight against social exploitation and oppression, of fascism and war will never forget the firm commitment and assertion with which, from your earliest youth, you, dear beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, entered the fierce revolutionary fight, your exemplary courage and staunchness in your actions against exploitation, for the safeguarding and promotion of everything that stood for the truth, humanism and justice, for the attainment of our most cherished ideals of a life in a better and more just world, for the triumph of the cause of the working class, of the people wherefrom you rose and whom you served and continue to serve with your whole being, with self-denial and heroism.

On behalf of the oldest militants of the Party, of the working-class and revolutionary movement in Romania, the speaker conveyed President Nicolae Ceausescu wishes of long life, full power of work to further and as boldly [as received] lead the country to the fulfilment of all the aspirations and dreams that have been his concern since his early youth and throughout his long-standing revolutionary activity.

Emil Bobu, member of the Executive Political Committee, secretary of the CC of the RCP, took the floor paying a vibrant and respectful homage to Nicolae Ceausescu, the leader of the RCP and of the Romanian state, the front-ranking militant of the international communist and working class movement on his birthday and the anniversary of more than 55 years of heroic and uninterrupted revolutionary activity on behalf of the Communists, of county committees, of Party bodies and organizations, of the Party active, expressing gratitude for everything he had done to turn the Communist Party into an ever more powerful, ever more united party, followed, with full trust and boundless devotion, by the Romanian people as a whole.

Highlighting the outstanding achievements of the period that followed the Ninth RCP Congress, the speaker showed that the Party active as a whole, all Communists were fully aware of the fact that their greatest homage was their solemn pledge to do everything possible to permanently strengthen the leading political role of the party in all activities, to broadly mobilize the working people to the implementation of the historic resolutions of the Thirteenth Congress and the National Conference of the Party, of the grand, wonderful programmes for the homeland's socioeconomic development.

Inspired by the deepest feelings of admiration and gratitude for your exemplary life and revolutionary activity, the speaker said, along with the country and the people we wish you, dear beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, a long, happy life, undying power of creative work as that, at head of the party and our nation's destiny, you may further lead us, as clear-sightedly and brilliantly, on the glorious road of socialism and communism.

Nicolae Ceausescu made an address which was received with feelings of love and valuation. The address made by the RCP general secretary and president of the Republic was followed with keen attention and punctuated with lively, long applause.

Ceausescu Speech at Reception

AU261900 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1800 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Speech by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu at joint reception given in his honor by the RCP Central Committee, the State Council, and the Government of the SR of Romania on his 70th birthday and more than 55 years of revolutionary activity," on 26 January in Bucharest; recorded]

[Text] Dear Comrades: I would like to thank you all, the PEC and the Central Committee, for organizing this comradely dinner; I would also like to thank those comrades who, on behalf of their organizations, conveyed wishes and congratulations to me on this occasion. As I already said yesterday, I consider all these wishes as being addressed to our Party, as an expression of the determination of all our Party-state aktivs from all fields to work resolutely to unflinchingly implement the decisions of the 13th Congress and National Conference and of the party program on building the comprehensively developed socialist society and advancing toward communism.

We have a wonderful program. At the end of last year, after the Party national conference, we examined in detail all targets for this year and the entire 5-year plan in the bodies of our revolutionary workers democracy and in the Grand National Assembly. It is now decisive to do our best to implement all these programs, in order to raise our fatherland to new peaks of progress and civilization.

In my turn, I would like to extend best wishes to all of you for success in all your activity. I would like to wish the PEC, the Central Committee, the government, and the entire Party-state aktiv to work to ensure that everybody commendably fulfills all tasks incumbent upon them in all fields, with a view to implementing the Party decisions.

I would like to toast the continuous strengthening of our Party and of its unity and its capacity to always act in a revolutionary spirit, in accordance with the realities and aspirations of our people. On this occasion, I would like to extend to all our people best wishes for progress, well-being, freedom, and independence. I would also like to toast the implementation of our policy of cooperation with all states, a policy of peace, disarmament, and friendship, in accordance with the interests of our whole nation and of all nations in the world.

Once more, I wish a wonderful and happy future to our people in the communist society. Dear Comrades; I wish you all much health and happiness. [applause]

Prosecutor's Office Message

AU270754 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 21 Jan 87 p 5

["Telegram Addressed to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, Secretary General of the RCP and President of the SR of Romania, by the Participants in the Accountability Meeting of the Basic Aktiv of the Judicial Sphere and Prosecutor's Offices," date and place of the meeting not given]

[Text] The basic aktiv of the judicial sphere and prosecutor's offices held an accountability meeting and addressed the following telegram to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania:

Much beloved and esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu:

In the atmosphere of strong patriotic commitment with which all our people are self-denyingly working to implement the targets established by the Party national conference, the basic aktiv of the judicial sphere and prosecutor's offices held an accountability meeting and examined in a critical and self-critical spirit of revolutionary exactness the activity carried out in 1987 to fulfill tasks incumbent upon us from your orientations and guidelines and from the historic decisions of the 13th RCP Congress. Our meeting adopted new measures to improve work and ensure a climate of legality, order, and discipline in all socioeconomic spheres.

On this occasion, the aktiv of the judicial sphere and prosecutor's offices again expressed sentiments of boundless love, profound respect, and choicest esteem and regard for you, for your exemplary and untiring activity devoted to developing and modernizing our socialist economy, further improving the organization

and management of the entire social life, deepening the revolutionary workers democracy, and promoting the comprehensive flourishing of Socialist Romania.

The participants in the accountability meeting highly praised your valuable and original scientific-revolutionary concept according to which the strict observance of the law by all citizens and all state bodies is an objective prerequisite for further deepening our revolutionary workers democracy.

Following your bright example of work and life, we solemnly assure you that we—together with all the people and closely united around the party and yourself, Comrade Secretary General—will take further steps, in a spirit of principledness and responsibility, to defend the assets of our society, to strengthen order, discipline, and socialist legality, and to ceaselessly develop and consolidate the national wealth.

Being inspired by the choicest sentiments of regard and profound respect, we pay ardent homage to Comrade Academician Doctor Engineer Elena Ceausescu, outstanding militant of our party and state and eminent scientist of broad international renown, for her great contribution to working out and implementing the fatherland's socioeconomic development programs and to raising the prestige of the Romanian science, school, and culture to new peaks.

On the forthcoming anniversary of your birthday and of more than 55 years of heroic revolutionary activity, we express our choicest thoughts and sentiments for you, much esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the most beloved son of the nation, hero among the nation's hero, ardent revolutionary and patriot, and prominent personality of the contemporary world, and we wholeheartedly extend to you wishes for health, happiness, long life, and the same exemplary power of work at the head of our party and state, for the well-being and prosperity of our whole nation and for the glory and greatness of Socialist Romania.

RCP Auditing Commission Message

AU270747 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 24 Jan 88 p 5

["Telegram Addressed to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, Secretary General of the RCP and President of the SR of Romania, by the Participants in Homage-Paying Plenary Meeting of the RCP Central Auditing Commission," from a meeting held on 23 January in Bucharest]

[Text] Much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu:

In these moments of the strong assertion of our people's creative energy, aimed at fulfilling the plan tasks for 1988 and the entire 5-year plan, when the entire country is paying homage to its leader—to you, great hero of the nation, builder of modern Socialist Romania, brilliant thinker and militant of the international communist and workers movement, and prominent personality of the contemporary world—the RCP Central Auditing Commission, along with the entire Party and nation, extends to you, as a token of high regard, love, and profound gratitude, warm congratulations and best wishes for long life, much health and happiness, and power in your work in order to further lead the Romanian fatherland and people with the same wisdom and clear-sightedness toward the bright peaks of socialism and communism.

As an outstanding politician and statesman, and a profound expert in Romanian social realities, you have renewed and revitalized revolutionary thinking by creatively applying the principles of scientific socialism to the concrete conditions that prevail in our country. You have instilled a lively and dynamic spirit into Party-state activity and into all facets of socioeconomic life. You have created and developed our broad system of revolutionary workers democracy, which ensures the broad participation of the masses in running and resolving state and public affairs, and in building socialism with the people and for the people, by ceaselessly strengthen the role of the Party as the vital center of the entire nation.

Under your wise and clear-sighted leadership, we are successfully implementing the decisions adopted by the 13th Congress and the national conference of the Party. At the end of the current 5-year plan our country will enter a higher stage, that of a medium-developed country, and later, in the next decade, it will become a comprehensively developed socialist country, thus creating conditions for broadly applying the communist principles of work and life.

On this elevating occasion we again extend to you, from the bottom of our hearts, warmest wishes for long life, much health, and untiring energy, for the well-being and happiness of the Romanian people. We assure you, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, that we will work with all communist devotion and responsibility to fulfill in an exemplary way the tasks incumbent on us from your priceless advice and orientations, and from the historic decisions of the 13th congress and the national conference of the Party, in order to raise our fatherland to higher peaks of civilization and progress.

Hungarian Embassy Party on Treaty Anniversary

AU221831 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1830 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 22/1/1988—Friday, January 22, the ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic to Bucharest, Pal Szuts, gave a cocktail party on the celebration of forty years since the signing of the first treaty of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance between Romania and Hungary.

The attendance included members of the government, deputy heads of sections at the CC of the RCP, executives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of other ministries and central institutions, generals and senior officers, other officials.

'Arafat Thanks Ceausescu for Message

AU270748 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 22 Jan 88 p 5

[Report on message of thanks from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces to Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, for greetings on the 23d anniversary of the Palestinian revolution]

To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania; On behalf of our Arab Palestinian people, of the comrade members of the PLO Executive Committee, and on my own behalf, I would like to extend to you, and through you to your militant Party, the government, and the friendly Romanian people our deep gratitude and our high respect for your position of firm and principled support and your assistance for the just cause of the struggle of our people, a position you reasserted in the greetings and solidarity telegram you kindly sent us on the 23d anniversary of the beginning of our Palestinian Revolution.

Further, referring to the fact that this year the Palestinian people celebrate an important anniversary and that they are determined to fight in unity under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, the telegram reads: A just peace and stability can be achieved only by Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, by recognition of our people's inalienable national rights, and by enabling them to exert these rights, including the right to return, to self-determination, and to create an independent state.

We are firmly convinced that the best way to achieve all the above is to have an international peace conference organized in the Middle East, under the UN aegis, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and on an equal footing of all the sides involved in the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The friendly Romanian support, under your wise and bold leadership, support we receive from all the peace-loving forces and states that favor progress and justice in the world strengthen the determination and will of our people to continue the just fight for accomplishing our national rights.

I thank you for your comradely and sincere wishes and I extend you wishes for good health and happiness. I extend the friendly Romanian people wishes for progress and continuous prosperity under your bold and wise leadership.

With highest regard,

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces.

Dascalescu Message to PRC Premier on Accident

AU261802 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 23 Jan 87 p 5

[Text] Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the SR of Romania, sent a telegram to Comrade Li Peng, acting premier of the PRC State Council, in connection with the tragic airplane accident near Chongqing Airport, which resulted in the loss of human lives. In his message, Comrade Constantin Dascalescu extends most heartfelt condolences as well as profound condolences to the mourning families.

Youth Organization Votes Against Relay Race

AU261842 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] As reported in the headlines, the youth relay baton will not be carried anymore, nor will it be a constituent part of Youth Day celebrations. This was decided today by the delegates of the Conference of the League of Socialist Youth of Yugoslavia who supported the so-called Vojvodina concept of celebrating 25 May. This concept does not envisage carrying the relay baton. The delegates passed this concept after the third round of voting when, according to the Statue, the necessary simple majority was obtained. Azra Nuhefendic reports:

After a 4-hour discussion the delegates of the Youth Conference needed another hour of voting to reach what many people have branded a historic decision. In the future, the marking of the Youth Day will not include the youth relay race. At one time it looked as if the voting were blocked. The so-called Vojvodina concept, which envisages the marking of the Youth Day without the youth relay race, was favored by 67 delegates, while 13 were against. In order for a decision to be adopted, it was necessary that more than half of the 152 delegates vote in favor of it. This way of voting led Zeljko Cigler to conclude that the delegates voted against the relay race as well as against the new concept of celebrating Youth Day. Let us repeat that in the third round of voting, 83 delegates decided against the future relay races which, according to Mijat Skenderegic, were in many ways tied to Comrade Tito's physical presence.

At the session of the Presidium of the Youth Organization held this morning and at the Conference session, the most dominant opinions were those that the youth relay race should be abolished while it still means something, rather then to wait until, as Miodrag Vlahovic said, it loses all meaning, when we find ourselves in a situation in which it will mean so little to us that abolishing it would not be a problem. Supporting the concept of marking Youth Day, which does not envisage the youth relay race, the Youth Organization opted for a manifestation that will mean the affirmation of the true values of young people, which will be a stimulus and a new opportunity for their getting to know each others, friendship, and joint studying.

Lolic on Youth Relay Race

AU271046 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Jan 88 p 1

[Marko Lolic commentary: "Relay Race, Yes or No?"]

[Text] The following question was raised clearly and in an almost dramatic fashion recently: to keep or not to keep a great tradition that represents that most recognizable part of the Youth Day celebrations. There was a series of answers from various meetings and youth discussion forums, all different and reasoned in various ways, some supporting, others being against, the third group advocating suitable modifications, everybody having their reasons and explanations.

And it is exactly this, these convincing and tolerant debates, that one should welcome. That is the primary condition for reaching a reasonable decision. Politicization and intrigues, calling on the carpet and counting people on the basis of the criterion of "progressiveness," and even last year's torpedoing of the relay race by using a log (!) [instead of a baton] are certainly not roads leading to a progressive, democratic, and cultural outcome.

It is best to leave the whole thing to young people and to their organization: Let them say what they want, feel, and wish, it is their holiday and their celebration. The coming future and its challenges and uncertainties mostly concern young people. The socialism of the sons is not the same as the socialism of the fathers used to be. Theirs are the years to come, and let them fill those years with their unique conciousness, knowledge, and creativeness.

Since the question is asked, let me say the following: One should omit the relay race from future Youth Day celebrations. This is not because the symbol is false, empty, or mistaken, but, on the contrary, because of respect and admiration for it. It used to belong to Tito and to young people and let us leave it like that for memory and history. It has now lost its original charm and the determining point of the recipient, so they have started driving the baton around and guarding it (from whom?) and, after the final celebration, giving it to the curator of the museum to keep it during the night. The youth relay race has not deserved that. And for that reason, only one should part from it with deep respect. It has fulfilled its mission, and expressed its deep meaning and joint love.

And there is a sufficient number of new and real celebrations left to mark the youth day. They can, for instance, have a working character and be attractive, such as the meetings of young creators, workers, innovators, journalists, cultural workers, musicians, youth work drives.... They can be meetings of people from all regions and strata, without protocol, possessing a definite purpose, inspiring, modest and full-blooded, stimulating the overall creativity of the young people and their contribution to our finding ways out of difficulties into a more certain future in a stable Yugoslavia with good prospects for the future.

Finance Minister Views Economic Changes

LD261829 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1756 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Novi Sad, January 26 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Finance Minister Svetozar Rikanovic today set the struggle against inflation, the creation of conditions for the growth of production and improvement of the standard of living as the basic preconditions for Yugoslavia to overcome the economic crisis.

The changes which would lead to a way out of the crisis are now slowed down because of ideological-political dogmas, poor material basis, and weaknesses of the economic system, Rikanovic told a meeting of economy representatives in Novi Sad.

In spite of the country's high indebtedness, he said, many live well and therefore oppose changes.

Explaining the economic changes proposed by the Yugoslav Government, the Yugoslav minister pointed out that their substance is the introduction of real interest rates that stimulate citizens to save and not spend. Lower demand will result in stockpiling, and producers will be forced to accept the market game both in the country and abroad, Rikanovic underlined.

Firms operating badly will have to declare bankruptcy, but the measure will be accompanied with an appropriate social policy, Rikanovic pointed out.

The Yugoslav finance minister said that 73 percent of overall savings in Yugoslavia are foreign currency savings. Owners of savings accounts can be certain that nobody will change their foreign currency into dinars by force, but rather stimulate dinar savings with the aim of protecting the national currency, Rikanovic said.

Man on Trial in Zagreb on Terrorist Charges

LD261739 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1447 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Zagreb, 26 Jan (TANJUG)—The trial of Juraj Pilko (30) began today before the council of the district court in Zagreb. Pilko, an unemployed welder from Zagreb, is charged with the criminal act of participating in hostile activities.

According to the indictment, from April 1987 to September 1987, Pilko made contacts with a member of the Ustasha terrorist organization abroad, Movement for Croatian Statehood, and after an agreement with him, wrote advertisements calling for the destruction of the constitutional order. Pilko is also charged with making a seal bearing the letters "HDP" [initials of above organization], with photographing the houses of prominent political officials in Zagreb, and with passing information on certain persons to the extremist Ustasha emigre community.

In the opinion of the prosecutor, Pilko not only made contact with members of the Ustasha terrorist organization in the country, but actively involved himself in their work.

Slovene SAWP Conditionally Accepts Resolution

LD261750 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1514 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Ljubljana, 26 Jan (TANJUG)—The proposed resolution for Slovenia for this year is, in view of the economic situation, a realistic and acceptable document, but before its final adoption it should nevertheless be improved. This was the assessment made at today's session of the Slovene SAWP Republican Conference Presidium.

The reason for this is primarily the need to realize the aims of the federal resolution, particularly in the sphere of prices, the foreign currency and credit and monetary system, and also the termination of the period of intervention measures. The Presidium, supporting the stands of its Council for Socioeconomic Relations, called for a clearer definition of the proportions in the division of income, more specific moves in the development of small businesses, and the collection of resources from citizens for additional accumulation. It was assessed that the proposer of the resolution should have a greater awareness of ecological problems. [passage omitted] right after bihac

New President of Bosnian SAWP Elected

AU261630 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Edina Residovic, who has hitherto been secretary of the Republican Conference of the Bosnian SAWP, was elected president of this organization. The SAWP delegates also discussed constitutional changes, the consolidation of the economy in the Bihac region, and ways of solving some problems caused by Agrokomerc malpractice.

CEMA's 'Harmless, Innocent' Projects Assessed

AU270749 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 14 Jan 88 p 5

[Darko Gorsek report: "Harmless and Innocent Projects"]

[Text] All sorts of things have changed since October 1986 when 63 countries expressed interest in participating in 59 scientific-technical programs offered by CEMA countries. Above all, it was established several months later when detailed programs were inspected, that we were in fact offered participation in those projects in which our organizations were already involved as a result of previously signed general agreements on cooperation.

This concerned primarily multilateral cooperation in the fields of microprocessor technology, automated design systems [automatizovano projektovanje], flexible production systems for machine building, industrial robots,

optical transmission of information, equipment for nuclear power stations, and specialist technology for the automobile industry. About 40 of our organizations were included.

However, as early as December 1986, during an interview with Milanko Renovica, Mikhail Gorbachev supported the idea that our side should be given all available information and be allowed to participate in all the 94 projects which the CEMA countries were working on. Last September, it was established that the majority of our coordinators had not yet received detailed programs of cooperation in the projects.

Without Money and Cadres [subhead]

There are many reasons for this, but it is not insignificant that our scientific research organizations, who are the potential coordinators, are most often unable to provide the means for participating in meetings with the main organizations. The difficulties are also caused by the fact that they are often unable to carry out the organizational aspect of cooperation because we do not have the cadres necessary for such work.

However, in the middle of December last year, the CEMA Committee for Scientific-Technical Cooperation decided that our organizations should be allowed to participate in another 32 projects, in addition to the 20 projects already approved. Of these, 11 concerned the application of electronics in industry, 8 in the area of nuclear energy, 6 were related to new materials, and 7 to biotechnology. In the first quarter of this year, we should be presenting a list of organizations to coordinate these projects.

Considering past experience we can expect that at this stage in our relations many problems will come to light, especially concerning legislation. Because of this it is necessary to solve systematic questions in tandem with these.

Much more has been written about our participation in the EUREKA Program. The difficulties are significantly more pronounced. As has been stressed, in the absence of administrative support from their countries, the foreign partners are reluctant to accept invitations to make contact and cite generally hackneyed excuses when refusing to cooperate.

How To Refuse a Yugoslav [subhead]

Although meetings with organizations from Sweden and Italy were arranged in principle, Sweden, for example, could not present information about its participation in the EUREKA Program, because this data was considered a business secret. The Austrians acted in a similar way. The Italians also pronounced as secret all their current projects in which we expressed an interest. Indeed, talks on cooperation were then not completed, but postponed. However, it is possible for us to be included in future projects where our organizations would be in partnership with the Italians. It seems that those currently underway are closed to us.

On the other hand, preparations are in progress for negotiations with Great Britain on our participation in projects on robots. Most successful cooperation has been established with the FRG, as conditions have been created for us to participate in the EUROTRAK, COSINE, and EUROMAR Projects.

EUROTRAK is an ecological project for the protection of the human environment by controlling the troposphere above Europe. The coordinator, the Rudjer Boskovic Institute has already secured finance for its participation.

COSINE is a project for creating a network to link together scientific research information systems in Europe. The coordinator is the Jozef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana. EUROMAR is a project for the protection of European coastal waters. As in the first project, the coordinator is the Rudjer Boskovic Institute.

As well as these, the FRG, along with Italy and Greece, has initiated a proposal for a project concerning the field of biological materials for medicines, which has not yet been registered in the EUREKA catalogue. Our country has been proposed as the fourth partner. It seems that the role of coordinator will be entrusted to the Boris Kidric Institute in Vinca. That would basically be everything.

We obviously made our first breakthroughs into EUREKA thanks to FRG support. However, the fact is we have been accepted only into infrastructure projects that cannot create new production technology, which is after all the basic reason for the existence of EUREKA. As one of the officials in this program said, it is a matter of "harmless and innocent programs." Is this what we can or what we must be satisfied with?

Rural Serbs, Montenegrins Continue Emigration

LD261327 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1025 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Pristina, 26 Jan (TANJUG)—The emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo was, last year too, more pronounced from rural areas than from urban areas. By various pressures—the usurpation of property, arbitrary possession, damage to fields, attacks on personal integrity, the desecration of headstones, rapes, and other forms of causing anxiety—the Albanian nationalists and separatists have stimulated emigration from rural areas, Radio Pristina stated in a current affairs broadcast in Serbo-Croat.

In 1987, of the total of the 1,430 Serbs and Montenegrins who emigrated from Kosovo, 757 were from rural settlements, that is, more than 50 percent of the total number of those who emigrated. Increased activity by all organized forces, led by the LC, especially after the Ninth

LCY Central Committee Plenum on Kosovo, is having specific results in halting emigration and in bringing about the return of those who have emigrated. However, Radio Pristina states, a decisive turnabout in solving this Yugoslav problem has still not been made. The journalist, Dragan Zoric, recalls the great importance of the adoption of the Yugoslav program on Kosovo and his colocutor Aleksandar Vasic, a member of the Kosovo SAWP Provincial Conference Presidium, emphasizes that all citizens, regardless of their national affiliation, should feel free.

Zagreb Construction Workers End Strike

LD261613 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] After a 3-day work stoppage, about 800 workers of the Novogradnja Zagreb construction work organization ended their strike late last night and went to their work places this morning. The workers' council partially endorsed the objections of the workers, mainly site workers, and decided that the basic pay of the poorest paid workers be increased by 50 percent. An analysis of the material possibilities of the collective, with 2,800 employees, is also due to be undertaken shortly, in order to seek a solution to the other demands, mainly of site workers at Samacki Hotel, about which the chairman of the management board, Mato Domjanovic, says that they did not meet with the approval of workers from Zagreb and its environs.

Issues on Mikulic Visit to Italy Reviewed

LD261745 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1556 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Before Yugoslav Premier's Visit to Italy"—TANJUG headline; by Djordje Milosevic]

[Text] Belgrade, January 26 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Premier Branko Mikulic will leave on an official visit to Italy on January 28, to discuss with Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria and other Italian officials the promotion of bilateral, primarily economic cooperation.

This is the basic aim of the visit to Yugoslavia's biggest and in many respects most significant partner among its neighbours.

The last visit by a Yugoslav premier to Italy was twenty years ago. The period, however, has not been one of stagnation, but rather of an exceptionally dyamic development of cooperation between two neighbouring countries, strongly stimulated by the Osimo Accords, signed 13 years ago. The upcoming visit will not be a routine one but meaningful and will contain talks on concrete questions.

Yugoslav political circles assess that favourable conditions and political and economic reasons exist for such a visit.

Among Yugoslavia's neighbors, Italy is its most important economic partner and the third most significant in general after the Soviet Union and Federal Republic of Germany.

The two countries' average annual trade stands at around two billion dollars. Last year, the trade reached an all-time high of 2.8 billion dollars. Italy is the only Western partner with which Yugoslavia has a balanced trade.

An agreement on long-term cooperation is expected to be signed during Mikulic's visit which is to ease the repayment of Yugoslavia's foreign debts and create greater possibilities for strengthening Yugoslavia's scientific and technological cooperation with Italy and partners in the European Community.

Yugoslavia and Italy have extensive cooperation in culture and education, tourism, local border trade, science and technology. The two countries' border is one of the most open in Europe.

Some questions exist in the two countries' relations which are termed "disputable" or "open" in diplomatic terminology such as the position and overall protection of the Slovene minority in Italy and fishing in Adriatic waters. The fact that both sides are investing efforts to resolve the questions is encouraging.

Assessments say that the greatest attention among international topics will be drawn by European trends and the CSCE process, the situation in the Mediterranean, the Middle East Crisis, developing countries' position and the debt problem.

Branko Mikulic will hold talks with President Cosiga, top-level parliament representatives and a group of leading Italian industrialists.

According to Yugoslav assessments, the working character of the coming dialogue should raise Yugoslav-Italian relations to an even higher level which at the same time means that Yugoslavia's cooperation with the E.C. will be enriched.

The Yugoslav side welcomes Italy's readiness to help Yugoslavia overcome economic difficulties through promoting the two countries' cooperation.

It is customary for foreign statesmen visiting Italy to visit the Vatican. Premier Mikulic will meet with State Secretary Agostino Casaroli and will be received by Pope John Paul II.

Mamula Departs for Visit to Ethiopia

LD261128 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1109 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Jan (TANJUG)—Admiral of the Fleet Branko Mamula, federal secretary for national defense, left today at the head of a Yugoslav military delegation on a short working visit to the Armed Forces of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

During their stay in friendly and nonaligned Ethiopia, Admiral Mamula and members of the delegation will have talks with their host, Major General Haile Giorgis Habte-Mariam, the minister of national defense, on the further improvement of interarmy cooperation. The delegation will visit units and institutions of the Ethiopian Armed Forces.

The visit comes in response to an invitation by Mengistu Haile Mariam, president of Ethiopia, delivered in November 1987 when he visited Yugoslavia.

Orlandic Receives Hungarian Envoy

LD252203 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1011 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jan (TANJUG)—Marko Orlandic, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, today received Sandor Gyorke, ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic the SFRY, who briefed him on the joint initiative of the MSZMP, of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, and of the Italian Socialist Party on cooperation among the countries not possessing nuclear weapons. [passage indistinct]

During their meeting they also discussed questions of bilateral relations and cooperation between the LCY and the MSZMP.